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# World Heritage

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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC  
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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF  
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Fortieth session

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**Item 7A of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of the properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger**

## SUMMARY

In accordance with Section IV B, paragraphs 190-191 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the Committee shall review annually the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This review shall include such monitoring procedures and expert missions as might be determined necessary by the Committee.

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language:  
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/40COM/documents>

All state of conservation reports are also available through the World Heritage State of conservation Information System at the following Web address:  
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

**Decision required:** The Committee is requested to review the following state of conservation reports. The Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

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# **CULTURAL PROPERTIES**

## **LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN**

### **1. City of Potosi (Bolivia, Plurinational State of) (C 420)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2014-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Instability and imminent risk of collapse of the Cerro Rico's summit
- Lack of conservation policy of integral character which considers all the components of the property
- Deficiencies in conservation: special attention required for the restoration and upgrading of structures with residential use and the archaeological industrial heritage
- Potential degradation of the historic site by continued and uncontrolled mining operations in the Cerro Rico Mountain
- Inefficient enforcement of protective legislation
- Threatening impacts of climatic, geological or other environmental factors

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger  
In progress

Corrective measures identified

In progress

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/420/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1988-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 83,777

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/420/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 10,000 for a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS technical mission in 2005 financed by the Spanish Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage.

Previous monitoring missions

November 2005 and February 2011: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS technical mission; December 2013 and January 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Potential degradation of the historic site by continued and uncontrolled mining operations in the Cerro Rico Mountain
- Instability and risk of collapse of the Cerro Rico
- Deficiencies in conservation: special attention required for the restoration and upgrading of structures with residential use and the archaeological industrial heritage
- Inefficient enforcement of protective legislation

- Environmental impacts on the hydraulic complex which in turn affects historic fabric and local population

*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/420/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 23 February 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/420/documents>, and presents progress as follows:

- The Bolivian government is currently developing an Inter-ministerial Resolution for the “Creation of a Management Committee for Cerro Rico of Potosí”, along with its operational regulations, in coordination with the Ministries of Mining and Metallurgy, Environment and Water and Cultures and Tourism;
- Regarding the works for the stabilization of Cerro Rico, the Autonomous Government of the Department of Potosí identified financial resources for the application of dry filler. However, the State Party emphasizes the impossibility to implement any stabilization measures as long as the mining activities at the mountain are not halted and the social issues solved;
- A number of actions were launched in view of the adoption of a new legislation, which will take into account the relocation of miners and the reinforcement of the moratorium. These actions, still under negotiation process, include the inventory and analysis of mining cooperatives above 4,400m, the inspection of the mines located in risk areas and relocation of miners. It is expected that the new Management Committee will bring them forward in an integral manner;
- Regarding the Management Plan, the Emergency Committee has proposed a set of rules for the creation of a Supra Organic Management Body who will have as immediate objective the development of an Integral Management Plan for the property, including Cerro Rico, the Historic Centre, the *Ingenios* Valley, lakes and cultural landscape;
- A civil strike between July and August of 2015 prevented the implementation of the International Assistance granted for the elaboration of the Management Plan and the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). The definition of the buffer zone to visually protect sensitive areas around the property is conditioned by the development of a land use regulation for these areas. These two actions are considered as a priority by the State Party;
- In December 2014, the State Party formalized into law the former Municipal Regulations for the Preservation of Historic zones of City of Potosí (Municipal Law 055/2014). Within this framework, in 2015, the Municipality of Potosí restored many churches located at the Historic Centre and has also planned studies for the restoration of other churches in 2016.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The efforts made by the State Party to develop coordinated actions for the conservation of Cerro Rico of Potosí, in particular by the creation of a Management Committee for Cerro Rico of Potosí along with its operational regulations are welcomed. However, it should also be noted that the creation of this Committee should be harmonized with the initiative to create a Management Body that cover all the components of the inscribed property in order to ensure the integral protection of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

There are some encouraging initiatives regarding the management of the Cerro Rico and the stabilization of its summit, such as: the identification of financial resources for the stabilization works at the sinking areas of Cerro Rico by the Autonomous Government of the Department of Potosí, the process to develop a New Legislation to solve the issues regarding the relocation of miners and the moratorium for all exploration between altitudes 4,400m and 4,700m, and the implementation of several actions such as the inventory and analysis of mining cooperatives above 4,400m, the inspection of mines located in risk areas and the relocation of miners. However, the report lacks specific information on the results and impact of all these actions, and the fact that the current situation of the stabilization of the summit of Cerro Rico remains unresolved should be noted with extreme regret.

The Integrated Management Plan for the property, as well as the DSOCR and a set of corrective measures, need to be elaborated as a matter of urgency. Therefore, it is regrettable that the State

Party was not able to develop these essential tools with the International Assistance granted for this purpose.

The proposal of a set of rules for the creation of a Supra Organic Management Body for the development and implementation of an Integral Management Plan which includes all attributes and components of the property (Cerro Rico, the Historic Centre, the *Ingenios* Valley, lakes and the cultural landscape) is considered as an essential progress to be achieved to ensure an effective management system for the property. The land use regulation for the property and its surrounding areas and its socialization with the communities before the establishment of the buffer zone for the property is of utmost importance.

The approval of the Law for the Preservation of Historic zones of City of Potosí (Municipal Law 055/2014) is welcomed. In this sense, the restoration works implemented in many of the churches located in City of Potosí in 2015 and the initiative to further develop studies for the restoration of other churches in 2016 is noted, though it would be advisable to develop an integral conservation strategy before further works are implemented.

### **Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.1**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.44**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party in view of the establishment of a Supra Organic Management Body to ensure an effective and integral management mechanism for the property and its components and urges the State Party to finalize this process;*
4. *Notes with concern the standstill of stabilization works at the summit of Cerro Rico and also urges the State Party to take all the necessary measures to proceed with the stabilization works;*
5. *Further urges the State Party to finalize the process to adopt a new legislation to address the issue of the relocation of miners and enforcing the moratorium for all explorations between altitudes 4,400m and 4,700m;*
6. *Regrets that the State Party was not able to develop a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) nor the Integral Management Plan in the framework of the International Assistance granted by the World Heritage Fund;*
7. *Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop as a matter of urgency, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a proposal for the DSCOR and a set of corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;*
8. *Requests the State Party to establish a clear management structure for the property, with appropriate articulation between the various bodies and committees, to urgently proceed with the elaboration of an Integrated Management Plan, and to include in this process the elaboration of land use regulation for the property and its surrounding areas in order to define a buffer zone to protect the visually sensitive areas around the property;*

9. Notes with appreciation the approval of the Law for the Preservation of the Historic Zone of City of Potosí and also requests the State Party to develop an integral conservation strategy before implementing any major restoration works at the property;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;
11. **Decides to retain City of Potosí (Bolivia (Plurinational State of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## AFRICA

### 6. Timbuktu (Mali) (C 119rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (ii)(iv)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1990-2005, 2012-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Occupation of the property by armed groups;
- Absence of management;
- Destruction of 14 mausoleums and degradation of the three mosques in the serial property.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger  
In progress

Corrective measures identified

In progress

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/119/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1981-2012)

Total amount approved: USD 187,449

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/119/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 100,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust; USD 55,000 from the UNESCO Emergency Fund; USD 1,000,000 from the Action plan Fund for the rehabilitation of cultural heritage and the safeguarding of ancient manuscripts in Mali

Previous monitoring missions

2002, 2004, 2005, 2006: World Heritage Centre missions; 2008, 2009 and 2010: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; May, October and December 2012: UNESCO emergency missions to Mali; June 2013: UNESCO assessment mission to Timbuktu

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Occupation of the property by armed groups
- Lack of management structure at the site
- Armed conflict

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/119/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party of Mali was unable to submit a state of conservation report of the property. Nevertheless, several technical reports have been acquired by the UNESCO Office in Bamako enabling the establishment of the following information:

- The 14 mausoleums destroyed by extremist armed groups in 2012 have been completely rebuilt respecting traditional practices, by the Corporation of Masons of Timbuktu, which develop ancestral know-how transmitted from generation to generation. Reconstruction was preceded by a major compilation of archival material and detailed documentation of the destruction,

architectural surveys and archaeological excavations to maximize existing building know-how. Initially, a pilot phase was undertaken on the first two most fully documented mausoleums to develop a methodology to better guide the reconstruction of the other mausoleums. The inauguration ceremony was held on 18 July 2015 in the presence of the UNESCO Director-General;

- The Djingareyber Mosque and several libraries containing manuscripts were rehabilitated and restored;
- The consecration ceremony of the Saints' Mausoleums was held on 4 February 2016 in Timbuktu. This was the first such ceremony to take place since the 11<sup>th</sup> century. This ceremony was organized at the initiative of local communities and was the last stage in the cultural renaissance of Timbuktu following the destruction of the mausoleums. It was intended to call upon the divine mercy to restore peace, cohesion and tranquility.

An evaluation meeting on the state of conservation of the property was held in Bamako on 7 and 8 April 2016, as the security situation did not allow for a Reactive Monitoring mission as requested by the Committee. Based on all the technical missions, studies and activity reports carried out, as well as observations and witness accounts of site managers and local community representatives, this meeting was able to take stock of the actions carried out in the framework of the Mali Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage programme and to establish corrective measures and the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The main Malian experts, ICOMOS-Mali and the site manager attended this meeting.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

It is regrettable that the State Party was unable to submit its state of conservation report of the property to note the activities achieved. However, the presence of the UNESCO Office in Mali provides an effective means of gathering data and information about the implementation of the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage project.

The results achieved by the project are greatly salutary, as all the 14 destroyed mausoleums were completely reconstructed. It was a true architectural challenge, with some of the mausoleums dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Over and above the fact that the reconstruction work has enabled the mausoleums to recover their authenticity of use and functionality, and restore the integrity of a major component of the property, it contributes to restoring social cohesion and peace within the communities of Timbuktu. It is recommended that the Committee congratulate the State Party for this major accomplishment that contributes to energizing the cultural vitality of the property. It should be noted that this work was carried out based on architectural and archaeological studies and a reconstruction strategy prepared in consultation with the families associated with the mausoleums and the Corporation of Masons. In order to clearly document the principles that were adhered to in this reconstruction and the role of the Corporation of Masons, it would be desirable that this reference material be submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

Although the mausoleums have been rebuilt and some libraries for the manuscripts rehabilitated, the restoration of the two other mosques of Sidi Yahia and Sankore has not yet been realized and should be considered in the same dynamic of urgency, fully involving local communities and in particular the Corporation of Masons. The partners who expressed their wish to engage with the State Party and UNESCO should be thanked and encouraged to continue their support to complete the Mali Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage project.

In view of the impossibility of sending a reactive monitoring mission to the property, the organization of a meeting in Bamako to prepare corrective measures and the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger is greatly appreciated and has enabled progress regarding a Committee request expressed at the time of inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2012.

It is recommended that the Committee approve the prepared corrective measures and invites the State Party to finalize, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and submit as soon as possible, the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).



## **Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.6**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.21**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Regrets that the State Party was unable to submit a state of conservation report of the property, as requested by the Committee;
4. Congratulates the State Party for the efforts undertaken in the reconstruction of the 14 Saint mausoleums destroyed during the occupation period of Timbuktu in 2012 and thanks the partners who provided support in the framework of the Mali Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage project and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the reconstruction strategy that guided this work and the architectural and archaeological studies carried out, so that the principles underpinning this reconstruction work are clearly documented and the role of the Corporation of Masons fully appreciated;
5. Expresses its concern regarding the fragility of the security situation at Timbuktu preventing the State Party from inviting the requested joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the general state of conservation of the property;
6. Notes with satisfaction the organization in Bamako of an evaluation meeting on the state of conservation of the property based on all the technical missions, studies and activity reports carried out, as well as observations and comments of the site managers and representatives of local communities, enabling the preparation of corrective measures and the preparation of a Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
7. Adopts the following corrective measures to ensure the conditions of integrity and authenticity of the property:
  - a) For the conservation of the physical components of the property:
    - (i) Carry out the restoration/rehabilitation work for the two mosques of Sankoré and Sidi Yahia to strengthen their stability and safeguarding, and establish a participatory management mechanism closely involving the Imams,
    - (ii) Establish and implement control measures concerning the silting up of the physical components of the property,
    - (iii) Rehabilitate fencing around the cemeteries where the World Heritage mausoleums are located in order to strengthen security,
  - b) For the protection and management of the property:
    - (i) Revise and implement the management and conservation plan for the property and the buffer zones, taking into account risk management, threats concerning the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and a plan for preventive and remedial conservation activities for the components of the property,
    - (ii) Identify short- middle- and long-term funding sources to guarantee the implementation of the management plan,

- (iii) *Prepare a geo-referenced map indicating the boundaries of the buffer zones for each of the components,*
  - (iv) *Update and implement urban regulations in the periphery of the inscribed property, the ancient fabric and buffer zones and evaluate their efficiency,*
  - (v) *Prepare a maintenance manual and conservation plan for the reconstructed mausoleums,*
  - (vi) *Re-energize the Management Committee for all components of the property involving the municipal authorities concerned,*
  - (vii) *Strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of the actors and professionals involved in the management and conservation of the property,*
  - (viii) *Strengthen the operational capacities of the management structure of the property: allocation of necessary budget for urgent conservation activities,*
  - (ix) *Improve the security situation at the mosques and mausoleums and more generally throughout the entire town;*
8. *Requests the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the general state of conservation of the property and progress achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures, once the situation in northern Mali is stabilized;*
  9. *Also requests the State Party to finalize, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM, the DSOCR proposal and a precise timetable for implementation, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2017**, as far as is possible, for adoption by the World Heritage Committee at its 41<sup>st</sup> session in 2017;*
  10. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41<sup>st</sup> session in 2017;*
  11. *Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;*
  12. *Also decides to retain Timbuktu (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

## **7. Tomb of the Askia (Mali) (C 1139)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2012-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Occupation of Gao city by armed groups;
- Inability to ensure daily management in the protection and conservation of the property;
- Risk of collapse of the property.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger  
In progress

Corrective measures identified  
In progress

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures  
In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/documents/>

International Assistance  
Requests approved: 2 (from 2000-2012)  
Total amount approved: USD 53,333  
For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds  
Total amount granted: UNESCO Emergency Fund: USD 40,000; Action plan for the rehabilitation of cultural heritage and the safeguarding of ancient manuscripts in Mali: USD 50,000

Previous monitoring missions  
May 2012: Emergency UNESCO mission to Bamako; October and December 2012: World Heritage Centre monitoring missions to Bamako; February 2014: UNESCO assessment mission to Gao

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of site management
- Armed conflict

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/>

#### Current conservation issues

The State Party of Mali was unable to submit a state of conservation report on the property. However, the UNESCO Bureau in Bamako that coordinates the project for the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the State Party has been able to collect information. This information concerns the following points:

- Each of the components of the property (prayer rooms for men and women, pyramidal tower, inside courtyard, necropolis) suffer from issues of integrity, and notably the degradation of several wooden structures, lack of preventive and remedial maintenance, water leaks in the roof, the formation of dunes, water erosion;
- The property also experiences authenticity issues due to the difficulty in finding restoration materials and the use of some inappropriate materials, such as metal doors and tin water spouts;
- Protection and management measures encounter several difficulties including the absence of an operational management structure, an updated Conservation and Management Plan and a risk management mechanism. Impoverishment of the local communities limiting their support in the conservation and management of the property also constitutes a concern.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

It is regrettable that the State Party was unable to submit its report on the state of conservation of the property and provide information on the actions undertaken. Nevertheless, the presence of the UNESCO Office in Mali provides an efficient means of gathering information and assessing the level of implementation of the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage project. This information is not reassuring as it indicates that the property is still under threat as regards its architectural components and its conservation and management mechanism.

In the event that a property manager is present, there are no means available to ensure protection and management missions. Planning and management tools are also lacking. It is therefore recommended that the Committee express its concern in the light of this situation and encourages the

State Party to accelerate the implementation of the project for the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage at Gao.

As a Reactive Monitoring mission was unable to visit the property, the initiative to organize a meeting in Bamako to prepare the corrective measures and draft a Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), is greatly appreciated and has enabled progress to be made regarding the request expressed by the Committee at the time of the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2012.

It is recommended that the Committee approve the prepared corrective measures and invites the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to complete and submit the DSOCR as soon as possible.

**Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A. 7**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A22**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Regrets that the State Party was unable to submit a state of conservation report on the property, as requested by the Committee;*
4. *Expresses its concern regarding the unstable security situation at Gao preventing the State Party from inviting the requested joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the general state of conservation of the property;*
5. *Also expresses its concern that the property remains under threat as regards its architectural components and the conservation and management mechanism and requests the State Party to accelerate, together with support from its partners, the implementation of the project for the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage at Gao;*
6. *Notes with satisfaction the organization in Bamako of an evaluation meeting on the state of conservation of the property based on all the technical missions, studies and activity reports, and notes and comments of site managers and representatives of the local communities, enabling the establishment of corrective measures and the initial preparation of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);*
7. *Adopts the following corrective measures to ensure the conditions of integrity and authenticity of the property:*
  - a) *For the conservation of the physical components of the property:*
    - (i) *Implement the restoration and rehabilitation work for the different components of the property to ensure their stability and consolidation,*
    - (ii) *Establish and implement control measures relating to the silting up of the physical components of the property and carry out drainage and sand removal from the courtyards of the property;*
    - (iii) *Safeguard and preserve the cultural and symbolic characteristics of the necropolis: 1) secure its stability with regard to the erosive action of rainwater, 2) correct the repair errors on the enclosure that affect its authenticity, 3) promote its integration into a coherent ensemble with the white stone square,*

- (iv) *Improve the amenities of the buildings, in this case, the men's prayer rooms,*
  - (v) *Safeguard and preserve the architectural characteristics (typo-morphological) of the buffer zone,*
- b) *For the protection and management of the property:*
- (i) *Revise and implement the Conservation and Management Plan for the property and the buffer zones, taking into account a risk management plan, threats to the outstanding universal value of the property and a timetable for the preventive and remedial conservation of the components of the property,*
  - (ii) *Identify funding sources for the short-, medium- and long-term, to guarantee the implementation of this management plan,*
  - (iii) *Prepare a conservation guide for the components of the property indicating the periodic evaluation mechanism for its state of conservation,*
  - (iv) *Strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of the actors and professionals involved in the management and conservation of the property,*
  - (v) *Strengthen the operational capacities of the management structure of the property: allocation of a budget required for urgent conservation activities,*
8. *Also requests the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the general state of conservation of the property and progress accomplished in the implementation of the corrective measures, once the situation in northern Mali is stabilized;*
9. *Further requests the State Party to complete, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM, the proposed DSOCR and a clear timeframe for implementation, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre, if possible, by **1 February 2017**, for adoption by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;*
10. *Requests furthermore that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;*
11. *Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism of the property;*
12. *Decides to retain Tomb of Askia (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

## ARAB STATES

### 13. Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan) (C 148 rev)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add.2

### 14. Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem (Palestine) (C 1433)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2012

Criteria (iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2012-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Degradation of the architectural complex of the Church of the Nativity
- Development pressure
- Tourism pressure

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6245>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6245>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1433/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1433/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 723,000 from Italy (Emergency Action Plan 1997-1998; Conservation and Management Plan 2006-2010)

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Degradation of the architectural complex of the Church of the Nativity
- Development pressure
- Tourism pressure
- Housing
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Management activities
- Management systems/ management plan
- Water (rain/water table)

*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1433/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 28 January 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1433/documents>, and provides information on both projects that have been completed and those currently being implemented. These include:

- The roof restoration, installation of new windows, new doors, a new lifeline and new crosses was completed in March 2015. The report provides documentation consisting of technical reports from surveys and interventions for these, rationale and justification of the interventions, methodological approach, and a list of all documents and reports previously shared with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS in this regard;
- On-going work includes interventions for the Narthex roof to address structural deformation with the construction of a steel structure above the existing vault system. The new structure is part of seismic retrofitting and stabilization efforts and will be finished by the end of June 2016;
- Additional interventions for the restoration of internal plasters and wall mosaics are also being implemented and expected to conclude by mid-2016;
- Project proposals are in progress for the restoration of wooden architraves, stone and mosaic floors, lighting, microclimate and smoke detection systems. Schedule for implementation hinges on securing adequate funding;
- Pilgrimage Route: several concept ideas to revitalize the area and address urban pressure and traffic have been developed, including the Manger Square tunnel, the Manger Square Village, the rehabilitation of Star Street, and the preparation of a comprehensive traffic and transportation plan for Bethlehem, but no precise projects have been submitted for review at this stage;
- No significant progress has been made on the development of the Management Plan, as qualified human resources and funding have not been secured. The State Party submitted an International Assistance request to fund the elaboration of the Management Plan; the panel requested the revision of the request;
- Plans are in motion to develop Regulatory Bylaws for the buffer zone, which are expected to address development pressure and negative expansions. No funds have been secured for this endeavour;
- Other projects implemented centred the rehabilitation of the Bethlehem Old market, of the Syriac hosh (readapted as a hotel), of the Qattan Square (public garden), and of the Manger Square.

The State Party invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to be carried out before the end of June 2016, and visit the restoration works before the removal of the scaffoldings.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

Considerable progress has been made in addressing the conservation conditions of the Church of the Nativity that existed at the time of inscription. The technical implementation seems appropriate for the various interventions carried out to date, and the justification, rationale, and methodological approach provide useful information. Since the numerous results from analysis and surveys have been carried out and shared with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS at separate moments in time, it has been a challenge to extract from these documents the comprehensive conservation approach and philosophy. Moreover, the long-term strategy for the architectural ensemble as a whole is still lacking. Therefore, it is crucial to develop an Integrated Conservation Plan for the architectural ensemble at this stage, before any new interventions are carried out that could impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The Conservation Plan should, as previously requested, systematize and integrate, in one synthetic document, information on the integrated assessment of conditions, clear prioritized conservation interventions, including ongoing and future measures, with timeframes for implementation. This document should include the wall mosaics, the frescoes, the pavement mosaics, and any other relevant elements or parts of the church. The plan should also include measures for presentation and interpretation, if necessary, as well as environmental control measures, including lightning, microclimates, among other, risk preparedness and maintenance and monitoring measures, including fire prevention, that will be required to ensure the long term conservation of the architectural

ensemble. In this regard, the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission, foreseen end of June 2016, will allow evaluating the restoration and consolidation works that have been undertaken, and defining jointly with the State Party the exact contents of the Conservation Plan and related future measures.

The same approach should be carried out for the urban components of the property, currently either in implementation or at the concept development stages, such as for the Pilgrimage route and other elements related to the World Heritage property.

The development of the Management Plan of the property is crucial to address on-going concerns related to development and tourism pressures, as well as other issues such as housing and traffic. Although the Regulatory Bylaws are important elements to address some of these concerns, these need to be integrated and enforced with overarching management policies for the whole of the property and its setting, which should be defined during a participatory and multi-stakeholder management planning process. Finally, the need to submit large-scale projects, such as the Manger Square tunnel and the Manger Square Village, for review should be reiterated. It is best to discuss these at the earliest possible conceptual level to avoid costly revisions after designs have already been made.

### **Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.14**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.28**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Notes that conservation works for the roof of the Church of the Nativity have been completed and acknowledges the progress made in addressing conservation conditions at the architectural ensemble and the rehabilitation works undertaken at other areas in the property;*
4. *Also notes that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission will be carried out at the property and will allow evaluating the restoration works that have been carried out at the Church of the Nativity, and discussing with the State Party the contents of an Integrated Conservation Plan for past and future interventions;*
5. *Requests the State Party to develop the Integrated Conservation Plan, as per the adopted corrective measures, which should include in one synthetic document, among other items, the following:*
  - a) *Systematized condition assessment that includes all existing condition recording surveys, analysis and historic documentation,*
  - b) *Identification of attributes which embody specific values according to the evolution of the ensemble and its character defining features,*
  - c) *Overarching conservation philosophy and specific principles for conservation interventions in accordance to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and other relevant local values,*
  - d) *Costed and prioritised conservation action plan for all component parts of the architectural ensemble with a timeframe for implementation,*
  - e) *Additional measures for presentation, interpretation, environmental control, fire prevention, risk preparedness, maintenance and monitoring;*
6. *Also requests to the State Party to prioritize and secure the necessary resources for the development of the Management Plan for the property and to provide an electronic*



and three printed copies of the Plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, concept proposals for the Manger Square Tunnel and the Manger Square village before plans are finalised or commitments made to their implementation;
8. Further notes the request made by the State Party to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger but considers that the planned Advisory mission will allow discussing this request with the State Party to ensure full implementation of the corrective measures before the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;
10. **Decides to retain Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem (Palestine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

**Note :** the following reports on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic need to be read in conjunction with Item 22 below.

## **16. Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 21)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Destruction, and ascertained as well as potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1986-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 5,250

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties:

2.46 million Euros by the European Union (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); USD 200,000 by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain (for cultural heritage under conflict); USD 170,000 by the Flemish Government (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); 63,000 Euros by the Austrian Government (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

### Previous monitoring missions

Since the start of the conflict in March 2011, the security situation has not allowed any missions to be undertaken at this World Heritage property.

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Lack of definition of the limits of the property and of the buffer zone
- Lack of conservation and/or management plans
- Inappropriate restoration works
- Urban encroachment

Since 2013:

- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/>

### Current conservation issues

As a result of major escalations of armed conflict, the Ancient City of Aleppo has been severely damaged since 2013. On 11 May 2015, the State Party submitted an updated report for the property resulting from the assessment of pictures (commissioned by the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) and taken in April 2015 when ground access was possible) and on 5 February 2016, a state of conservation report for the six World Heritage properties in Syria, which is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/documents>.

The reports confirm and detail some of the damage reported in 2014 and 2015, to the Great Umayyad Mosque, Mosque al-Utrush, Madrasa al-Adiliyya, Madrasa al-Sultania, the Citadel, the New Serail (Grand Serail), the Hotel Carlton, Matbakh al-Ajami, Khan al-Shouna, Khan al-Saboun and Khan al-Wazeer as well as additional severe damages to the Maronite Church. In addition, severe damage has been reported at Khan Slaimanyeh (Haj Musa), Suq al-Haddadin, Suq al-Zarb, Suq al-Sagha, part of Suq al-Suweiq and at Madrasa al-Shathbakhtiyya (al-Shaikh Maarouf Mosque) destroyed by underground explosions. Minor damage is reported at Aslan Dede Mosque, al-Hayaat Mosque, al-Dabagah Mosque, and Suq Qara Qumash.

In addition the State Party indicates that local communities and social media have provided additional information about severe damage caused by underground explosions to the Qasab Gate and Suq Khan al-Harir, and by clashes to the Armenian Orthodox Church in April 2015, as well as minor damage to the Museum of Folks Arts (Ajiqbash House) on 7 May 2015. Underground explosions destroyed part of the defensive wall at the Northeast side of the Citadel on 11 July 2015, and partially damaged the Citadel's 13<sup>th</sup> century entrance as well as Khan al-Shuna on 10 November 2015.

The report finally indicates the initiatives taken by the State Party to digitize and archive existing architectural drawings for the city and monitor damages notably in cooperation with the Media Agency that accessed the site in April 2015.

In April and May 2016, heavy bombardments have been reported by the media but no details on damages to the property have been received yet.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

See General decision **40 COM 22** of this Document on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Old City of Aleppo has been, and continues to be, severely damaged owing to the armed conflict, and very large portions of the property appear to have been completely destroyed. This has resulted in a humanitarian crisis with loss of life and displacement of large sections of the community, and major

destructions of the city that will need extensive reconstruction and recovery of its social and economic fabric.

Several international and national initiatives are ongoing to document the damages in Aleppo, and gather the existing archives, historical data and recent surveys and documentation, such as the Aleppo Archives initiative in Berlin.

In the face of this devastation, the World Heritage Centre has decided to publish a damage assessment report prepared on the detailed state of conservation in Aleppo – which is currently being finalized following a reflection meeting with a group of multidisciplinary experts on the issue of post-conflict reconstruction in the Middle-East, with a special focus on Aleppo, (Paris, 18-19 June 2015) to launch the reflection on recovery plans in Aleppo.

As soon as access to the property becomes possible, it is important that humanitarian and security actions be done in coordination with cultural heritage stakeholders, as much as possible, to avoid further irreversible damages to the property, and allow the undertaking of first-aid measures on its cultural heritage.

### **Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.16**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.57**, **38 COM 7A.12** and **39 COM 7A.36**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,*
3. *Taking into account Decision **40 COM 7A.22** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul, 2016),*
4. *Expresses its great concern at the continuous escalation of the armed conflict and resulting humanitarian crisis and irreversible destruction within the property, including of whole neighbourhoods;*
5. *Requests that, as soon as access to the property becomes possible, humanitarian and security actions be done in coordination with cultural heritage stakeholders, to avoid further irreversible damages to the property, and allow for undertaking of first-aid measures on its cultural heritage;*
6. *Considers that before any work is undertaken at the property, detailed studies and extensive field work are required, and also discussions on defining optimal approaches including considerations that go beyond technical issues;*
7. ***Decides to retain the Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

## 17. Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 22)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (i)(iii)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Destruction and ascertained as well as potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/22/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1995-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 51,250

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/22/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties:

2.46 million Euros by the European Union (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); USD 200,000 by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain (for cultural heritage under conflict); USD 170,000 by the Flemish Government (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); 63,000 Euros by the Government of Austria (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

Previous monitoring missions

Since the start of the conflict in March 2011, the security situation has not allowed any missions to be undertaken at this World Heritage property

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Since March 2011:

- Damage of historic buildings due to the conflict
- Illegal constructions following the start of the conflict

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/22/>

Current conservation issues

On 5 February 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the six World Heritage properties in Syria, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/22/documents>. This report includes an aerial view of the site showing the damages to historical structures, illicit excavations and illegal building activities at the site.

The report recalls the information provided in the April 2015 report following the severe clashes that took place at the site in March 2015, and recalled that it had reached an informal agreement with the support of local communities to refrain from undertaking any armed activities within the archaeological area; moreover, the agreement foresaw that the Bosra branch of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) was able to access some parts of the property to assess damage and conduct emergency cleaning and conservation works that included restoration inside the Citadel and at the Western wall of al-Omari mosque. The State Party also recalls the damage reported and indicates in

addition, illegal excavations at the east of al-Mabrak mosque and north of al-Omari mosque, as well as impacts of explosions on historical monuments such as the Triumphal arch, al-Omari mosque and Saint-Serge Cathedral. It finally reports that end of December 2015, new clashes took place and that the social media provided evidence of new damage in the courtyard located at the west of the Roman theatre and at the western walls of the Citadel.

In July 2015, reliable scientific sources submitted to UNESCO a detailed archeological report assessing damage in parts of the archeological area since the beginning of the conflict. This report confirms the DGAM and other previous reports and indicates in addition minor damage at the southern Baths, and illicit excavations at the monastery of Monk Bahira. It also reports stone collapses at the Trajan's Palace first floor and south apse, and partial destruction of the southern courtyard façade and roofing of the alcove room.

In December 2015, a detailed report of damage subsequent to bombardments, was sent to the World Heritage Centre, confirming with photos the damage in the courtyard located at the west of the Roman theatre and at the western walls of the Citadel.

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

See General decision **40 COM 22** of this Document on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic.

It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee express its deep concern about the escalation of the conflict and the reported damage and illegal excavations. It is noted with regret that the temporary agreement between the parties to the conflict to freeze combats within the property was broken in December 2015 and that the site has been further bombarded. All efforts should be made to ensure that such an agreement be maintained. The local efforts to protect and conserve the property should be acknowledged.

In the framework of the "Emergency Safeguarding of Syria's Cultural Heritage" project implemented by UNESCO, a technical meeting to address emergency needs and plan first-aid measures at the property is foreseen in October 2016.

**Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.17**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.57**, **38 COM 7A.12** and **39 COM 7A.36**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,*
3. *Taking into account Decision **40 COM 7A.22** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul, 2016),*
4. *Acknowledges the efforts of the local communities to raise awareness of the need to protect the property despite the very difficult circumstances;*
5. *Deplores the breaking of the temporary ceasefire agreement within the property in December 2015 which resulted in further severe damages and illegal excavations;*
6. *Urges all parties to pursue all possible cooperation for ensuring the respect of a ceasefire within the property;*
7. ***Decides to retain the Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

## 18. Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 20bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Destruction and ascertained as well as potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/20/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1981-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 156,050

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/20/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

10,000 USD from the Italian Funds-in-Trust.

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties: 2.46 million Euros by the European Union (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); USD 200 000 by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain (for cultural heritage under conflict); USD 170 000 by the Flemish Government (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); 63 000 Euros by the Government of Austria (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

Previous monitoring missions

March and December 2007: World Heritage Centre missions for the King Faisal Street project; April 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission. April 2016: World Heritage Centre Rapid Assessment mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Poor state of conservation
- Inappropriate restoration techniques
- Lack of a buffer zone
- Lack of a management plan
- Development projects threatening the significant historic fabric

Since March 2011:

- Damage due to the armed conflict

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/20/>

Current conservation issues

On 5 February 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/20/documents>.

The State Party indicates that in addition to the damage reported in 2015, the property continues to be targeted and the roof of the Umayyad Mosque and the Sakka Amini house have suffered damage from mortar shelling in February 2015.

As regards the December 2013 Emergency Response Plan (recommended by the World Heritage Centre in cooperation with ICOMOS, ICCROM and Interpol) implemented as reported in 2015, the State Party has taken some measures such as preventing illegal buildings and unauthorized demolitions, assessing and documenting damage in cooperation with all stakeholders, raising awareness of local communities about the values of the site and role of residents in conservation, preservation and restoration works as well as the provision of expertise and support for such works. However, and despite the focus of the Emergency Response Plan on fire prevention, on 26 April 2016, a major fire broke out, owing to an electrical incident and extensively damaged the neighborhood of al-Asrooniya located at the West of the Old City where shops and warehouses contained highly inflammable items. The shops and all neighboring buildings have been completely destroyed by the fire. The "Ottoman Bank" (1895) was severely damaged; its roof collapsed and only its stone façade remains. A short report on the damage was submitted by the State Party in May 2016; a detailed report on the damage is expected from the State Party.

The State Party report also indicates that restoration works have started at the citadel (structural consolidation restoration at the eighth and eighteen towers) and that the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) has joined the Anqa project, a CyArk /ICOMOS joint initiative for Emergency recording and Archiving implemented in collaboration with UNESCO which first phase started within Damascus in January 2016. In March 2016, the State Party sent a separate report on the discovery and restoration of an important mosaic and fresco in the prayer's hall of the Umayyad Mosque (dated between the XIth and XIIIth centuries), at the north of the axial nave.

The DGAM also reported that a DGAM staff member was killed on 18 August 2015 as the result of mortar shelling in Damascus.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

See General decision **40 COM 22** of this Document on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The World Heritage Centre's Rapid Assessment mission of April 2016 conducted a visit to several important components of the property, including the Umayyad Mosque, the Citadel, al-Azm Palace, Khan As'ad Pasha and took a tour in the old city streets. However, the mission could not access the site affected by fire at al-Asrooniya because the fire was still not fully extinguished during the visit to the site, more than 12 hours after it broke out.

The damage to the Old City of Damascus arising from the conflict remains limited but has affected very important monuments such as the Umayyad Mosque, the Citadel and the Madrasa al-Adiliye, and parts of the urban fabric that include important historic structures and houses. The city has been subject to recent shelling and the property remains at risk.

The discovery of the mosaic in the Umayyad Mosque and its restoration is a good development. However, the rapid assessment mission noted that although the quality of the restoration seemed good, the treatment of the *lacunae* could benefit from improved restoration techniques.

The major fire that ravaged al-Asrooniya within the property has caused severe damage and shows that the fire-related mitigation measures taken by the DGAM and Maktab Anbar, the municipal entity in charge of the property's management, are insufficient. The property needs to be freed from highly flammable materials; fire-prevention and extinguishing require more efficient measures. In general, the State Party needs to undertake risk prevention and mitigation measures as per the Emergency Response Plan of December 2013, and any additional measures deemed necessary. A report on these measures is to be requested from the State Party. In addition, immediate actions should be taken to save the remaining structures through adequate shoring and temporary consolidation measures.

In order to recover the social-economic life of al-Asrooniya neighborhood and other areas, there is a need to develop reconstruction guidelines for buildings in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre, that take into account existing documentation and surveys before and after the fire.

Recognizing the potential negative impact on the property of hasty decisions taken during the conflict, plans for conservation and restoration should be limited to emergency first aid interventions;

reconstruction and restoration plans in al-Asrooniya neighbourhood should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS and approval by the World Heritage Committee prior to the commencement of any works.

Pending improvement of the security situation, the property's prominent architectural elements, such as the Suleymaniye and Umayyad Mosque Minarets, should not be used for military purposes.

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to Syria to assess the state of conservation of the properties and elaborate, in consultation with the State Party, a prioritized action plan for their recovery, is currently planned for end 2016, in accordance with Committee Decision **39 COM 7A.36**.

### **Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.18**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.57**, **38 COM 7A.12**, and **39 COM 7A.36**, adopted at 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Taking into account Decision **40 COM 7A.22** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul, 2016),
4. Expresses its deep concern over the damage caused by the conflict, and the fire at al-Asrooniya neighbourhood within the property, and requests the State Party to submit a detailed report on the damage caused by the fire;
5. Also requests the State Party to engage in regular communication and consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies on ongoing emergency first-aid interventions at the property and on future urban plans for the al-Asrooniya neighbourhood; and in particular to:
  - a) Limit conservation or restoration to first aid interventions until the security situation improves,
  - b) Take immediate action to save the remaining structures through adequate shoring and temporary consolidation measures,
  - c) In order to recover the social-economic life of al-Asrooniya and other neighbourhoods, develop restoration and reconstruction guidelines, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre, that take into account existing documentation and surveys before and after the fire, and the particular social and economic needs of the areas,
  - d) Submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS and approval by the World Heritage Committee, reconstruction and restoration plans in al-Asrooniya neighbourhood prior to the commencement of any works;
6. Urges the State Party to plan and implement all necessary risk-prevention and mitigation plans outlined in the Emergency Response Plan of December 2013, and to report back to the World Heritage Centre on the progress made thereon;
7. Also urges all parties associated with the situation in Syria to refrain from any action that could cause further damage to the Ancient City of Damascus, including preventing the use of cultural property and prominent architectural elements, in particular the Suleymaniye and Omayyad Mosque Minarets, for military purposes;



8. Takes note that the State Party has invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to reverse the decay and ensure the conservation and protection of the property, and that the mission is foreseen end of 2016, provided that the security situation allows;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;
10. **Decides to retain the Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## **19. Ancient villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 1348)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2011

Criteria (iii)(iv)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Destruction and ascertained as well as potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2007-2007)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 202,917 (2001-2010: Technical and Financial Assistance from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Culture in the framework of France-UNESCO Cooperation).

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties: 2.46 million Euros by the European Union (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); USD 200 000 by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain (for cultural heritage under conflict); USD 170 000 by the Flemish Government (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); 63 000 Euros by the Government of Austria (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

Previous monitoring missions

Since the start of the conflict in March 2011, the security situation has not allowed any missions to be undertaken to this World Heritage property.

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Protection Policy does not adequately integrate cultural landscapes;
- Lack of human and financial resources;
- Development or infrastructure projects that may affect the integrity of the property;
- Management Plan still incomplete and lack of an Action Plan.

Since March 2011:

- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict
- Damage of historic buildings due to the use of ancient stones as building material;
- Illegal constructions;
- Use of the sites by internally displaced persons and by armed groups;
- Quarrying

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/>

### Current conservation issues

On 5 February 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the six World Heritage properties in Syria, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/documents>.

The State Party reports that access to the serial property remains difficult and that it mostly relied on the cooperation with local communities for monitoring the property. The report details damage to the property in four of the eight archaeological parks arising from the armed conflict, (two out of three in the governorate of Aleppo; two out of five in the governorate of Idlib), highlighting that according to local communities all the components of the property in the governorate of Idlib suffered damages. The sites continue to be damaged by the use of stones for building material, illegal constructions and quarrying, illicit excavations and vandalism, as well as by the lack of conservation activities.

In addition to the damage previously reported since 2013, the report indicates that stones from the archaeological sites are being used as building material in Jabal Sem'an, at Saint Simeon (eastern church, buildings along the northern road), Rafade (western tower of the Castle and other buildings) and Sitt ar-Roum, as well as in Jebel Zawiye and at al-Bara by using explosives and heavy machinery. Illegal constructions are reported in the sites of Saint Simeon (inside the citadel, outside towards the south, main gate, near the south-western church, close to the Triumphal Arch), Rafade, Sitt ar-Roum and Qatura. Road construction is reported in Jebel Sem'an, notably at Rafade. Illegal quarries are reported at the sites of Saint Simeon (north east) and Rafade as well as in Jebel Wastani at the site of Kafr Aqareb, where unauthorized agriculture, digging for wells and displacement of stones from historic buildings are also taking place. Illicit excavations are reported at the sites of Qal'at Sem'an (south-west of the citadel, northern church and main gate), Rafade (southern area), Sitt ar-Roum and Sheikh Suleiman as well as in Jabal Wastani. Vandalism is reported at the sites of Sitt ar-Roum (mosaic of the church), Sheikh Suleiman and at al-Bara where sarcophagus of pyramid and ground tombs had been intentionally destroyed. Collapse of stones is reported at the sites of Saint Simeon and Rafade (southern façade of the castle) as well as structural risks to some building in Jabal Wastani, due to cracks. In May 2016, other sources reported the shelling of Saint Simeon, which hit the remains of the stylite tower and the collapse of other structures.

Relocation of displaced populations is reported at the site of Sitt ar-Roum, in Jebel Zawiye and at the sites of al-Bara, Serjila, and Shinshara, but no further information on the impact of the displacement is available.

The State Party indicates that the General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums continue to cooperate with local communities, including displaced populations, to protect the archaeological sites from destruction and illicit excavations, which has reduced the extent of damage.

Other sources indicates bombardments of historical structures in Jabal Zawiye at Shinshara and in Jabal Sam'an at Saint Simeon.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

See General decision **40 COM 22** of this Document on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The recent escalation of the conflict in and around the serial property is extremely preoccupying and is causing daily irreversible damage, including the recent shelling of Saint Simeon. The lack of stability has also led to the illegal re-use of archaeological material and inappropriate new construction, including of roads. The continuing conflict also prevents access of the DGAM to the property, which would enable a better understanding of the damage that has occurred and is continuing, and the undertaking of first-aid measures. It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee express its deep concern about the escalation of the conflict and the reported damages.

**Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.19**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.57**, **38 COM 7A.12** and **39 COM 7A.36**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Taking into account Decision **40 COM 7A.22** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul, 2016),
4. Expresses its deep concern about the escalation of the conflict and the reported damages at the property, including at Saint-Simeon, as well as the illegal re-use of archaeological material and inappropriate new construction;
5. **Decides to retain the Ancient Villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

**20. Crac des chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 1229)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2006

Criteria (ii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Destruction and ascertained as well as potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1998-2003)

Total amount approved: USD 35,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties: 2.46 million Euros by the European Union (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); USD 200000 by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain (for cultural heritage under conflict); USD 170000 by the Flemish Government (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); 63 000 Euros by the Government of Austria (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

#### Previous monitoring missions

Since the start of the conflict in March 2011, the security situation has not allowed any missions to be undertaken to this World Heritage property.

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Lack of definition of the limits of the properties and of their buffer zones
- Lack of conservation and/or management plans
- Inappropriate restoration works
- Urban encroachment
- Exploitation of quarries within the perimeter of World Heritage properties

Since 2011:

- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/>

#### Current conservation issues

Since March 2014, the Syrian government gained back control over the property and the situation stabilized in the area. This allowed the State Party to conduct emergency conservation works based on the recommendations made during a dedicated meeting at UNESCO on May 2014.

On 5 February 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the six World Heritage properties in Syria, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/documents>.

The report indicates that the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) has been monitoring cracks and continues to undertake emergency conservation and restoration works, such as cleaning the facades of the Hall of Knights, consolidating the structures of the neighboring arches, sorting out the fragments as well as re-aligning stones in order to re-use them for future restoration works. It also indicates that a two-phase cooperation project with a 3D scanning company, started for the documentation of the site through photogrammetric processing of digital images, which was coupled with training to the DGAM staff. The first phase of the cooperation allowed the digital modeling of the monument through 40,000 images.

The State Party reported also that Qal'at Salah El-Din was reopened for visits.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

See General decision **40 COM 22** of this Document on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic.

No further damage has occurred at the property since March 2014 and detailed documentation and emergency consolidation and conservation works are regularly taking place at the property.

It should be reiterated that the State Party should safeguard damaged properties through minimal first-aid interventions and refrain from undertaking restoration and potential anastylis works until the situation allows for the development of comprehensive conservation strategies and actions that respond to international standards in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

## **Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.20**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.57**, **38 COM 7A.12** and **39 COM 7A.36**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Taking into account Decision **40 COM 7A.22** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul, 2016),
4. Commends the State Party for taking emergency safeguarding measures to protect the property and for undertaking its detailed documentation;
5. Reiterates that the State Party should continue to safeguard the Crac des Chevaliers through minimal first aid interventions, to prevent theft, further collapse and natural degradation, and refrain from undertaking conservation and reconstruction works until the situation allows, for the development of comprehensive conservation strategies and actions that respond to international standards in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
6. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to reverse the decay and ensure the conservation and protection of the property, as soon as the security situation allows;
7. **Decides to retain the Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

### **21. Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 23)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (i)(ii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Destruction and ascertained as well as potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1989-2005)

Total amount approved: USD 81,250

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties: 2.46 million Euros by the European Union (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); USD 200,000 by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain (for cultural heritage under conflict); USD 170,000 by the Flemish Government (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage); 63,000 Euros by the Government of Austria (for World Heritage, movable and intangible heritage)

#### Previous monitoring missions

April 2016: World Heritage Centre Rapid Assessment mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Serious weathering of many stone blocks due to capillary rising and variations in humidity and temperature
- Urban growth of the neighbouring agglomeration
- International tarmac road crosses the site
- Heavy automobile and truck traffic (vibrations, pollution, risk of accidents...)
- Pipeline crossing the southern necropolis
- Brightly-coloured antenna on hill
- Construction of an hotel close to the thermal springs
- Lack of a management plan

Since March 2011:

- Destruction, damage, illegal excavations, and looting due to the armed conflict since March 2011

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 5 February 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the six World Heritage properties in Syria, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23/documents>. The report includes an update of the deliberate acts of destructions at the property.

On 4 May 2016 the State Party submitted an updated report on a preliminary damage assessment conducted at the site and at the museum of Palmyra, which is also available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23/documents>, supported by drone-taken pictures and direct observations, and which includes a map showing the damage, illicit excavations, new roads, land leveling and the cutting of palm trees in the palm grove.

The reports indicate that up to 21 May 2015, the Syrian military forces were in control of the site and took measures to protect it, including cooperation with the local communities to retrieve more than four hundred artifacts that have been looted from the site, but that after the loss of control of the site, the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) could only document damages and raise national and international awareness of its importance. They also indicate that the site has been largely, but not completely, de-mined and that the search for booby-traps and the de-mining continue.

The report confirms the damage that was reported in satellite images and propaganda videos; these include: the destruction of the Lion Statue of Athena (June 2015), the blowing-up of: the Temple of Baal-Shamin (23 August 2015), the cella and surrounding columns of the Temple of Ba'al (30 August 2015), the Triumphal Arch (4 October 2015) as well as three columns in the main colonnade (26 October 2015). However, the DGAM could not access the Valley of the Tombs, the southwest Necropolis, and the southeast Necropolis to assess the destruction and looting of the funeral towers tombs within the buffer zone, visible in satellite images of September 2015 and March 2016. Similarly, the damages at the Mameluk citadel, referred to as Castle of Fakhr-al-Din al-Ma'ani could only be assessed through photos owing to its current inaccessibility. The report states that the Citadel appears to be in fair condition overall but some collapse is visible at the northeastern part, and major areas of

collapse are in the southeastern part; explosives were detonated at the entrance to the castle destroying the entranceway staircase. The report notes that much of the ancient city's ruins remain intact, such as tetrapylon, the amphitheatre, the agora, the baths, the camp of Diocletian, and the colonnaded decumanus, and indicates that the existing elements that lay on the ground as a result of explosions, could be sufficient to allow restoration and consolidation works, with the original elements, without the need for extensive reconstruction. With the support of a professional team, the DGAM also undertook detailed photographic documentation of the site using advanced technology, and a 3D photogrammetry of the Temple of Ba'al and identified some emergency measures especially at the museum, and actions required to prevent potential collapse of some structures at the site, and intends to conduct its future actions in Palmyra in full consultation with international scientific institutions.

The former Director of the DGAM branch in Palmyra, the archaeologist Khaled al-Assaad, was brutally assassinated by the armed groups in August 2015.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

See General decision **40 COM 22** of this Document on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic.

A The Director General of UNESCO decided to dispatch a UNESCO Rapid Assessment mission. The mission went to Palmyra on 25 April 2016 and confirmed the substantial damage and destruction described in the State Party reports, in particular at the Ba'al and Ba'al-Shamin temples, and at the Triumphal Arch. The remaining attributes of the property offer a strong testimony of Palmyra's urban layout, and its relationship with the surrounding desert and oasis landscape. The DGAM ongoing assessment and documentation is commendable and indispensable; the mission proposed short, medium and long terms actions for the property and its museum, and noted that funds are urgently needed to support this work. The full report of the mission is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23/documents>.

The DGAM future plans for the property will be prepared in close consultation with the international scientific community, with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. Although it is acknowledged that there is pressure to act quickly to reverse the damage, the property will require, before any hasty work is undertaken, detailed studies and extensive fieldwork, as well as discussions on defining optimal approaches and considerations that go beyond technical issues including adequate conditions on the ground. Discussions on how restoration might be undertaken, and whether or not anastylis might be considered, should be based on broad consultation amongst national stakeholders, and involve international cooperation and close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

Meanwhile, it is noted that current actions should be limited to damage assessment, documentation and emergency measures.

#### **Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.21**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions 37 COM 7B.57, 38 COM 7A.12 and 39 COM 7A.36 adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively;*
3. *Taking into account Decision 40 COM 7A.22 on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul, 2016),*
4. *Condemns the deliberate acts of destructions at the property and deplors the considerable damage to the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
5. *Acknowledges the documentation and damage assessment undertaken by the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) at the site and at the*

*museum, as well as the Rapid Assessment mission dispatched by UNESCO's Director General;*

6. *Notes with concern the pressures to act quickly to reverse the damage at the property and considers that before any restoration work is undertaken, the property will require detailed studies and extensive field work, and also discussions on defining optimal approaches as well as considerations that go beyond technical issues, including adequate conditions on the ground;*
7. *Welcomes the commitment that the development of recovery plans for the property will be undertaken in close consultation with the international scientific community and underlines the need to ensure that there is also broad consultation amongst national stakeholders as well as close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and that adequate time is given for the completion of the overall process;*
8. *Reiterates its view that meanwhile the State Party should safeguard Palmyra through minimal first-aid interventions, to prevent theft, further collapse and natural degradation;*
9. *Calls on the international community to provide financial support for the emergency measures that are required at the property;*
10. *Requests to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to proceed to a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to reverse the decay and ensure the conservation and protection of the property, as soon as the security situation allows;*
11. ***Decides to retain the Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

## **22. General Decision on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic**

### Current conservation issues

The armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011 and has constantly escalated leading to significant violence and degradation of humanitarian conditions. Since the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee (Bonn, 2015) the armed conflict has caused severe damage to the inscribed properties as well as to the twelve sites inscribed on the Tentative List, by shelling, street fighting, underground explosions, extensive illegal excavations, military use, construction violations, quarrying, in addition to intentional destructions and inappropriate use of archaeological sites by internally displaced populations.

In 2015, the State Party submitted an updated report for the Ancient City of Aleppo and on 5 February 2016, a state of conservation report with detailed information on the destruction and damage at the six World Heritage properties. These reports represent an official statement from the Syrian authorities and collate available information from the branches of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) and from the local communities and social media up to 31 December 2015. The State Party also submitted on 4 May 2016 a damage assessment report of Palmyra and one on 11 May 2016 of al-Asrooniyah neighbourhood in the Ancient City of Damascus, which was destroyed by fire; all reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/40COM/documents>. The State Party notes that ground access in Syria for heritage experts is limited, and the full extent of the damage to



World Heritage properties cannot be assessed in detail. Therefore, the reports do not provide first-hand information on all sites, in particular the Ancient City of Aleppo and the Ancient City of Bosra and thus do not allow a full understanding of the extent of damage to the properties. For the preparation of the state of conservation reports for the World Heritage Committee, additional information was sought from civil society organizations, international organizations, local experts and the media to supplement official data.

The State Party reported on the work carried out by the DGAM, despite the difficult working conditions, to monitor the World Heritage properties and cultural heritage in general, assess damages, undertake emergency conservation and risk mitigation actions whenever possible, and inventory built and movable heritage.

On 28 March 2016, the State Party provided updated information on the conservation of the sites inscribed on the Tentative List, which indicates the following:

- The site of 'Ebla (Tell Mardikh)' has been occupied by armed groups and affected by the settlement of barracks and by illegal excavations;
- Other sources showing satellite imagery reported that the Tell, which is located in a strategic defensive position, suffered most damages between January 2013 and August 2014, with military movement on the ground, and looting. Images of August 2014 show the dismantlement of tents and abandonment of military berms, as well as natural erosion throughout the site;
- The site of 'Mari (Tell Hariri)' is looted extensively with heavy machinery, notably at the southern gate of the Royal Palace. In addition to the damages reported last year, the report indicates the destruction of the Dagon temple, the Ishtar temple's walls and some of the walls of the Royal Palace, as well as the Goddess of the Spring Statue's platform (the red structure);
- Other sources showing satellite imagery report 165 pits that were dug until March 2014 and 1 268 pits observed six months after the armed groups took control of the site in 2014. The site of 'Dura Europos' has been subject to renewed illegal after several months' respite. The site being under the control of armed groups who encouraged local communities to make profit out of looting. Thousands of pits are reported as well as the destruction of archaeological remains. Illicit excavations in the cemetery area outside the city walls intensified. Armed groups of looters used heavy machinery to undertake deep digs that revealed archaeological remains. The site's fortification walls are threatened by collapse. Illegal constructions increased in the sanctuary, at the south of the neighboring al-Safsafa village;
- Other sources showing satellite imagery reported that 76% of the walled-city had been extensively damaged. The area beyond the city walls is reported to be less severely damaged. Nonetheless, approximately 3 750 looting pits have been observed in this area;
- At the site of 'Maaloula', the DGAM, in cooperation with the Municipality of Rural Damascus and local communities, has undertaken to assess and document damage, and has initiated restoration works such as cleaning, sorting of fragments and materials to be reused, and restoring movable artifacts such as icons;
- The site of 'Raqqa-Rafiq: the Abassid City' is under the control of armed groups. In addition to the damages reported last year, vandalism to the city wall is reported. Its natural degradation is also causing collapse of bricks;
- Other sources report damages in the city, next to the Raqqa Museum;
- The site of 'Apamea (Afamia)' has been extensively looted since the beginning of the conflict, which caused the destruction of walls, floors and mosaics, archaeological landmarks, and the ancient sewage network. Pristine archeological layers, the Roman theatre and the cemetery at the east of the Museum, were damaged; a large number of artifacts and mosaics have been looted. Qalaat al-Madiq has been damaged at its southern and northern facades, and the Apamea Ottoman Mosque damaged by shelling, which caused a hole in its southern façade;
- No further damage is reported at the sites of the 'Noreas of Hama', 'Ugarit (Tell Shamra)', 'Tartus: the Crusaders Citadel-City', 'Arwad Island', and 'Qasr al-Hayr ach-Charqi, a desert Castle' (occupied by armed groups since 2013);
- Other sources showing satellite images confirm that there is no visible damage at the sites of the 'Noreas of Hama' and 'Ugarit (Tell Shamra)'.

## Activities undertaken by UNESCO

Since the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee (Bonn, 2015), UNESCO has pursued its actions to assist the State Party in its continuous and sustained efforts to safeguard cultural heritage.

At the international level, UNESCO continues to raise the awareness of the international community on the destruction of cultural heritage in Syria, notably through the **#Unite4Heritage** campaign and in the framework of the implementation of the United Nations Security Council of Resolution (UNSC) 2199, adopted on 12 February 2015.

At the national level, UNESCO has pursued its activities to monitor the situation of Syrian cultural heritage, raise awareness on its protection, undertake short, medium and long-term actions to safeguard it, and coordinate the work of national and international entities working on its safeguarding.

In the framework of the European Union-funded “Emergency Safeguarding of Syrian Cultural Heritage” project (2.46 million Euros), co-financed by Flanders and Austria, started in March 2014, and implemented in partnership with ICOMOS and ICCROM, the following activities were undertaken:

- The second training course on “First Aid to Built Cultural Heritage in Syria” was organised by the UNESCO Beirut Project team, with ICCROM ATHAR and co-funding by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), in June 2015 with the aim to establish national teams capable of undertaking emergency response interventions to secure endangered built cultural heritage, as well as training other teams within the country;
- A workshop with the DGAM and the German Archaeological Institute Berlin was held in Berlin on 30 July 2015 for the harmonization of inventory and database systems, for Syrian built and movable heritage;
- Awareness-raising video clips on the destruction and loss of cultural heritage and the dangers of the illicit trafficking of Syrian cultural property, will be available by end of July 2016 and disseminated at the national and international levels;
- A game dedicated conceived to raise the awareness of children and reconnect them with their built and intangible cultural heritage is foreseen before end of June 2016;
- Other activities involve the safeguarding of traditional music addressed at the Expert meeting held at UNESCO Headquarters on 13 May 2016, as well as the digitization of Armenian manuscripts, and the Digitization of the maps, surveys, photos and documents of the French Institute of the Near East (Institut français du proche orient, IFPO).

The World Heritage Centre organized a technical meeting with a group of multidisciplinary experts to reflect on the issue of post-conflict reconstruction in the Middle-East context, and in the Ancient City of Aleppo in particular, at UNESCO’s Headquarters on 18-19 June 2015. The meeting set out basic recommendations and operational recommendations in the framework of an action plan.

UNESCO undertook a Rapid Assessment mission to Palmyra on 25 April 2016, during which a visit to the Ancient City of Damascus also took place. The mission allowed discussing damage assessment, documentation and first-aid measures in Palmyra and in the Palmyra Museum, and proposed short-, medium- and long-term actions.

UNESCO organized, with the support of the German Government, the second meeting for the Emergency Safeguarding of Syria’s Cultural Heritage in Berlin from 2 to 4 June 2016. The meeting aimed at taking stock of the progress made on the implementation of the UNESCO Action Plan adopted by the International Expert Meeting entitled “Rallying the International Community to Safeguard Syria’s Cultural Heritage” which took place at UNESCO Headquarters in May 2014. The meeting also aimed at bringing together all stakeholders, in order to identify the gaps in the safeguarding of the Syrian built, movable and intangible heritage, coordinate ongoing national and international documentation, damage assessment, and capacity building efforts and define the next steps focusing on future emergency and protection plans.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The armed conflict situation in Syria and its continued escalation has affected the six World Heritage properties and has substantially limited the capacities to adequately sustain and protect their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The properties are increasingly threatened by a specific and proven imminent danger, in particular the Ancient City of Aleppo, which has been extensively and increasingly destroyed, and which runs the risk of further irreversible destructions. Moreover, Palmyra

was under the control of armed groups from 21 May 2015 until 27 March 2016, who inflicted unbearable violence to the population and invaluable losses to the property, and assassinated the former director of the site, Dr Khaled al-Assaad.

The illegal excavations across archaeological sites and tells in Syria are a major source for the illicit trafficking of cultural objects and are causing extensive and irreversible damages to those sites, many of which are on Syria's Tentative List, as well as providing looted artifacts for sale in regional and international black markets.

It is recommended to commend the DGAM and all heritage professionals in Syria and local communities who have made sustained efforts to protect cultural heritage and to monitor it closely.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies will continue to support the State Party in the identification of the necessary corrective measures and in the development of Desired states of conservation for the removal of the properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as soon as the situation allows. A joint World Heritage Centre/ICCROM/ICOMOS mission will be carried out to Damascus end of 2016, and will include other properties that would be accessible under the United Nations security and safety rules.

Furthermore, it is recommended that systematic documentation of all damage incurred at the World Heritage properties be duly pursued whenever the situation allows, and that the World Heritage Committee reiterate its call to the State Party to safeguard damaged property through minimal first aid interventions to prevent theft, further collapse and natural degradation, and refrain from undertaking other measures until the situation allows for the development of a comprehensive strategy and action plan that respond to international standards and high-quality scientific methods.

With regard to post-conflict interventions, it is recommended that the Committee call on the State Party to plan for the future of World Heritage properties, in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

It is to be noted that the DGAM is following the World Heritage Committee decisions and recommendations and has engaged in a direct and transparent dialogue with regard to Palmyra's future interventions notably. It is recommended to call for international and national heritage professionals continue to unite for the safeguarding of Syria's cultural heritage.

Until conditions improve, it is also recommended that the World Heritage Committee call upon all parties associated with the conflict in Syria to refrain from any action that can further damage the heritage of the country, in particular World Heritage properties and all sites included on the Tentative List, and to fulfill their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage including the evacuation of World Heritage properties used for military purposes, and the halting of all damages that result from targeting World Heritage properties. It is further recommended that the World Heritage Committee call upon all parties associated with the conflict in Syria and the international community, in particular the neighbouring countries to Syria, to ensure effective measures for the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural objects, in line with the UN Security Council Resolution 2199.

### **Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.22**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.57**, **38 COM 7A.12** and **39 COM 7A.34** adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,*
3. *Deplores the conflict situation prevailing in the country, the loss of human life and the degradation of humanitarian conditions;*
4. *Takes note of the report provided by the State Party regarding the state of conservation of the six Syrian World Heritage properties and the updated reports on the damage assessment of Palmyra, and on the fire in the Ancient City of Damascus and expresses*

*its utmost concern at the damage occurred and the threats facing these properties and cultural heritage in general;*

5. *Urges all parties associated with the situation in Syria to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to cultural heritage of the country and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, including the halting of all damages that result from targeting World Heritage properties, sites included in the Tentative List and other cultural heritage sites, as well as the illegal re-use of archaeological material and inappropriate new construction;*
6. *Also urges the State Party to adopt measures against World Heritage properties being used for military purposes;*
7. *Further urges the State Party to safeguard damaged properties through minimal first aid interventions, to prevent theft, further collapse and natural degradation, and refrain from undertaking conservation and reconstruction work until the situation allows for the development of comprehensive conservation strategies and actions, in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
8. *Launches an appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Syria as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 of February 2015;*
9. *Reiterates its suggestion to the State Party to consider ratifying the Second Protocol (1999) of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Heritage during times of Armed Conflict;*
10. *Commends the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM), and all heritage professionals and local communities in Syria who are working on monitoring and protecting cultural heritage, for their sustained efforts amidst extremely difficult conditions and addresses its most sincere condolences to the families of the heritage professionals who lost their life;*
11. *Requests the State Party to pursue the systematic documentation of all damage incurred by the World Heritage properties whenever conditions allow and to implement all possible risk mitigation measures, to inform the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and the identification of corrective measures for all six properties, which should be informed by the proposed second meeting for the Emergency Safeguarding of Syria's Cultural Heritage, and the proposed joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission and be developed in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, as soon as the security situation allows;*
12. *Calls upon the international community to further support the safeguarding of Syrian cultural heritage through earmarked funds;*
13. *Also calls upon the international and national cultural heritage professionals to unite for the safeguarding of Syria's cultural heritage, and pursue their ongoing initiatives in coordination with UNESCO;*
14. *Takes note of the State Party's invitation of a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to Syria to assess the state of conservation of the properties that would be accessible under the United Nations security rules, and elaborate, in consultation with the State Party, a prioritized action plan for their recovery;*

15. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, updated reports on the state of conservation of the properties and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

## **23. Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) (C 611)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1993

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2000-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Serious deterioration of the built heritage (a high percentage of the residential houses being replaced by concrete and multi-storey buildings);
- The remaining houses in the city are rapidly deteriorating, due to the prevailing low income of the inhabitants;
- Since the souq activities have been transferred outside the city, the ancient souq is almost empty and free from any type of activity and the shops are falling apart;
- The traditional economic role of the city has vanished;
- The city in general, is lacking any conservation and rehabilitation strategies;
- Threats arising from the armed conflict in Yemen.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4357>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted; see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1282>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1282>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/611/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 9 (from 1994-2014)

Total amount approved: USD 188,997

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/611/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 14,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust and the France-UNESCO Co-operation Agreement

Previous monitoring missions

2002 and 2003: international expertise; December 2004: World Heritage Centre mission; January 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2009: World Heritage Centre mission; January 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Serious degradation of the city's heritage (many houses and the ancient souq are in an alarming state of deterioration)
- Large percentage of the city's houses replaced by inappropriate concrete buildings

- Large sections of the city's open spaces have been privatized, either illegally or informally and more than 30% of these built-up
- Reduction in support and resources arising from political and socio-economic disturbances

*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/611/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 29 March 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/611/documents/>.

The State Party reports that, in addition to ongoing deterioration of built heritage and general decline, the property continues to be affected by political and socio-economic disturbances, and by armed conflict which broke out in 2015.

Despite these challenges, and lack of funds, the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY), in coordination with the UNESCO Doha Office and ICCROM Athar, has participated in workshops in Amman, Cairo and Tunis focused on building capability to respond to the effects of the continuing crisis and conflicts. An expert meeting has identified urgent action to address the impact of the conflict on Yemeni heritage, but the plans arising from this work are yet to be implemented.

The State Party has acknowledged ICCROM, the German Agency for International Corporation (GIZ) and UNESCO for their efforts in supporting Yemeni capacity building and skills development, particularly regarding urgent intervention to preserve the heritage during conflict, in circumstances where international experts are unable to visit Yemen.

The State Party remains unable to implement the International Assistance Request on "Community participation programme for better conservation process" (IA2014-2664) because of the current situation but intends to initiate it as soon as possible with local resources.

The State Party has indicated that international support continues to be essential for the protection of Yemeni heritage and to facilitate the preparation of a plan for post-conflict conservation, measures, protection processes and maintenance. The State Party therefore proposes that an international conference should be convened to promote the safeguarding of cultural heritage, to highlight recent destruction, to prepare technical proposals and raise awareness of the need for financial support for implementation of the measures needed to necessary to protect and conserve Yemen's cultural heritage.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The security situation in Yemen continues to prevent both effective heritage management and physical conservation works within the property. Future donor support is necessarily constrained unless and until the security situation improves. In July 2015, UNESCO organized an Expert Meeting which elaborated an Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural heritage, with short, medium and long term actions some of which can be conducted by the State Party with remote technical support by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, but which would require immediate financial support.

The Ministry of Culture has been prevented from effective exercise of its responsibilities for the protection of cultural heritage, particularly buildings within the boundaries of the property, in response to Committee Decisions **38 COM 7A.13** (Doha, 2014) and **39 COM 7A.37** (Bonn, 2015).

Owing to the security situation it has also not been possible to make progress with the proposed Action Plan arising from the draft National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020, which was prepared in collaboration with GIZ. The strategic objectives of this national strategy align with elements of the 'Urgent Action Plan' and of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) previously adopted by the Committee. It is highly desirable that this Action Plan be prepared taking into account the new developments related to the conflict, the UNESCO Emergency Action Plan of July 2015, reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies and implemented. However, without both political support and substantial allocation of public-sector resources, implementation of the Action Plan may prove challenging.

While the State Party has clarified the boundaries of the property at the time of inscription, it is yet to finalize the buffer zone or submit a minor boundary modification request.

The State Party has previously reported that Bylaw regulations to support the Law of Protection of historic sites, monuments, cities and their urban and cultural heritage that was adopted in 2013 would be prepared but there appears to have been no substantive implementation of these statutes.

For understandable reasons, no substantive progress has been made towards the DSOCR, but the State Party has expressed a commitment to this process, including proposed involvement of the Higher Ministerial Coordination Committee for Zabid.

There is an increasingly urgent need to reverse decline in the city and to ensure that the valuable work undertaken by GOPHCY, GIZ, UNESCO and other parties to date can continue. It would be desirable for a Reactive Monitoring mission to visit the property and consider progress with the corrective measures and to advise on the proposed Action Plan as soon as the situation allows.

Pending improvements in the security situation, it would be appropriate for the international community to continue to express its support for the State Party and GOPHCY, and where possible to offer technical proposals, practical and financial support.

### **Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.23**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.13**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014) and **39 COM 7A.37** adopted at its 39th Session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Expresses its concern at the recent damage caused to the cultural heritage of Yemen as a result of escalating armed conflict, and that the Historic City of Zabid continues to be subject to significant threats from the ongoing lack of organisational support and material resources for physical conservation projects;*
4. *Acknowledges the efforts of the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY), other national entities, the local authorities, and the community of Zabid to protect and conserve the property despite the very difficult conditions in the city;*
5. *Notes with regret that, owing to the security situation in Yemen, it has not been possible to progress with the draft 'National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020' nor to prepare a complementary Action Plan and requests the State Party to ensure that the Action Plan, when prepared, should address the current situation and include provisions for conservation of damaged buildings, local community awareness, and should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
6. *Welcomes the continuing support of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) for Yemeni cultural heritage;*
7. *Calls on the international community to provide financial support for the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's cultural heritage, adopted at the UNESCO Expert meeting in July 2015;*
8. *Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, once the security situation has improved, to assess current conditions at the property, to consider progress with the corrective measures and to advise on the proposed Action Plan;*

9. Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre with details of the buffer zone and other technical requirements as requested and to submit a minor boundary modification proposal by **1 February 2017**, for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;
11. **Decides to retain Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## **24. Old City of Sana'a (Yemen) (C 385)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (iv)(v)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2015-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger  
Damages and threats related to the armed conflict in Yemen

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger  
Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified  
Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures  
Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/385/documents/>

International Assistance  
Requests approved: 6 (from 1990-2014)  
Total amount approved: USD 101,997  
For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/385/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds  
Total amount granted: 1988: USD 374,800, UNDP/UNESCO project in support of local staff training and fund-raising. 2004-2006: USD 60,000 for the Inventory of the historic city (Italian Funds-in-Trust); USD 12,000 for technical assistance in support of the reconstruction of the al-Qasimi neighborhood (Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH))

Previous monitoring missions  
1998, 1999, 2003: World Heritage Centre monitoring missions; 2003 to 2005, and 2010: World Heritage Centre and experts missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Modern constructions and uncontrolled expansion of commercial activities (issue resolved)
- Lack of a Safeguarding Plan (issue resolved)
- Fly-over bridge project (issue resolved)



- Uncontrolled vertical and horizontal additions
- Use of inappropriate building materials and techniques
- Densification of the historic fabric through occupation of green areas
- Functional decay of the residential neighborhoods
- Continuing vulnerability of the property, as a result of extreme conditions since 2011
- Threats arising from the armed conflict in Yemen.

*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/385/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 29 March 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/385/documents/>.

The State Party reports that, the property continues to be affected by political, security and socio-economic disturbances, and most of all by armed conflict which broke out in 2015 and caused irreversible damage. In June and in September 2015, the armed conflict led respectively to the destruction, or severe damages to al-Qasimi and al-Folihi neighborhoods, with complete destruction of a total of 8 buildings and damage to 100 others in the property. Shelling in the mountains surrounding Sana'a have also caused damages due to strong vibrations. Despite lack funds the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY), in coordination with UNESCO Doha has conducted technical studies and documented damage at the property.

GOPHCY has participated in workshops in Amman, Cairo and Tunis focused on capacity building to respond to the effects of the continuing crisis and conflicts and on related first-aid measures. In parallel, UNESCO Doha and ICCROM provided GOPHCY with technical assistance with regards to damage assessment, first-aid measures and reconstruction plans for al-Qasimi neighborhood. Restoration guidelines formulated by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS reinforced this technical assistance.

An expert meeting convened by UNESCO has identified urgent action to address the impact of the conflict on Yemeni heritage, but the plans arising from this work are yet to be implemented.

The State Party reiterated its call for GOPHCY to be duly consulted in the Water and Sewerage Rehabilitation Project should it be reactivated, and that a Heritage Impact Assessment be done before its implementation.

The State Party has indicated that international support continues to be essential to the protection of Yemeni heritage and to facilitate the preparation of a plan for post-conflict conservation, measures, protection processes and maintenance. The State Party therefore proposes that an international conference should be convened to promote the importance of cultural heritage, to highlight recent destruction, to prepare technical proposals and raise awareness of the need for financial support for implementation of the measures needed to necessary protect and conserve Yemen's cultural heritage and that national staff be further trained outside Yemen.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The armed conflict in Yemen has severely affected the property and continues to constitute a serious threat. GOPHCY's commitment and involvement in damage assessment, documentation and first-aid interventions, and their continuous communication with the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Doha and the Advisory Bodies is commendable.

In July 2015, UNESCO organized an Expert Meeting which elaborated an Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural Heritage, with short, medium and long term actions some of which can be conducted by the State Party with remote technical support by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, but which would require financial support.

GOPHCY has consulted the World Heritage Centre on the possible reconstruction of seven destroyed historical buildings in al-Qasimi neighbourhood, following great pressure from the inhabitants who lost their homes. On exceptional basis, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS supported these reconstruction plans to sustain shelter for the inhabitants, and provided clear technical restoration guidelines, in parallel with UNESCO Doha and ICCROM's technical assistance; these guidelines focused on the need to conduct engineering studies linked to the water-table, the structural stability of the adjacent buildings, and to the safety of the inhabitants, in addition to accurate documentation, the use of traditional construction techniques and material. Although GOPHCY has and is pursuing these

guidelines, the project stopped due to lack of funds. It is important for the international community to support proper funding and capacity building to conduct adequate preventive and restoration measures at the property, in relation with the armed conflict, in the framework of the July 2015 Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural heritage. Although future donor support is necessarily constrained unless and until the security situation improves, emergency interventions for the reconstruction of destroyed houses require immediate financial and technical support, to sustain people's livelihoods and ensure that these interventions include due consideration of the property's World Heritage status.

The implementation of the International Assistance Request (IAR) on "Preparation of the conservation plan – Old City of Sana'a (I phase inventory update)" (IA2014-2665) is currently halted due to inadequate response by the State Party in terms of the World Heritage Fund's administrative procedures. Moreover, the current governance crisis in Yemen has led to internal changes within GOPHCY that might affect further its already difficult working conditions. It is important that heritage professionals be called upon to transcend political differences in preserving their cultural heritage.

The Water and Sewerage project is halted due to the conflict, but that the World Heritage Committee's position on this project should be maintained. Owing to the conflict, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies cannot currently provide further support to the State Party on the Action Plan for the National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020.

### **Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.24**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.59**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Expresses its great concern at the recent damage caused to the cultural heritage of Yemen as a result of escalating armed conflict, and that the Old City of Sana'a has incurred irreversible destruction and severe damage due to the armed conflict, and continues to be vulnerable owing to the deteriorating security situation, the ongoing social change and continuing lack of organisational support and resources for both heritage management initiatives and physical conservation projects;*
4. *Commends the State Party for its commitment and involvement in damage assessment, documentation and first-aid interventions, and for its continuous communication with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and encourages all concerned stakeholders to unite for the preservation of cultural heritage in Sana'a;*
5. *Notes that the State Party has started the preparation of the reconstruction project for the seven destroyed buildings in al-Qasimi neighbourhood on an exceptional basis linked to the need of providing shelter for the inhabitants of Sana'a;*
6. *Urges the State Party to pursue its dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in all restoration and/or reconstruction processes to ensure the safety of the inhabitants and the respect of international conservation standards;*
7. *Calls on the international community to provide financial support for the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural heritage, adopted at the UNESCO Expert meeting in July 2015, including funding for capacity building and first-aid restoration and protection measures, and also calls on the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to continue providing the State Party with technical assistance and support where needed;*

8. Also urges all parties associated with the situation in Yemen to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to cultural heritage of Sana'a and the country and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, in particular the safeguarding of World Heritage properties and the sites included in the Tentative List;
9. Reiterates its request that the State Party:
  - a) Maintain a moratorium on new development or new construction, pending completion of the proposed Conservation Plan and, where appropriate, project-specific heritage impact assessments,
  - b) Prior to proceeding with the proposed rehabilitation of the water and sewerage project, prepare a HIA, which includes assessment of impacts on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in line with the relevant ICOMOS guidelines and submit a copy of the HIA to the World Heritage Centre prior to making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Also requests the State Party, as soon as it is feasible and in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
11. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to reverse the decay and ensure the conservation and protection of the property, as soon as the security situation allows;
12. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;
13. Decides to retain **Old City of Sana'a (Yemen)** on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

## **25. Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen) (C 192)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (iii)(iv)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2015-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Threats from natural elements
- Lack of organizational support and material resources for conservation
- Threats related to the armed conflict

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/192/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1982-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 121,966

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/192/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Floods (issue previously reported as being resolved)
- Poor maintenance (issue previously reported as being resolved)
- Damage to historic buildings
- Reduction in support and resources arising from political and socio-economic disturbances

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/192/>

Current conservation issues

In December 2015, the State Party submitted a report on recent damages to the property. On 29 March 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property. An executive summary of the state of conservation report and the full damage report are available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/192/documents/>.

The State Party reports that, in addition to the continuing threat of rain and floods, the property continues to be affected by political and socio-economic disturbances, and by armed conflict which broke out in 2015.

On 20 November 2015, a car exploded near the city wall causing severe damage to historic buildings on the southern and western edges of the city. The General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY), the Shibam local authority, some NGOs and representatives of the owners of the houses responded quickly and the damage has been documented. 160 buildings are reported as being damaged to varying degrees; 20 have suffered severe damage and another 60 medium damage. Wooden windows, doors and architectural details have been affected, with cracking to earthen walls and ceilings and, in some cases, destruction of entire building facades.

Despite these challenges, concerned governmental institutions, in cooperation with civil society, are striving to preserve and maintain Shibam's historic heritage. GOPHCY has conducted some emergency activities with support from the UNESCO Regional Office in Doha, including technical studies.

The State Party has indicated that international support continues to be essential for the protection of Yemeni heritage and to facilitate preparation for post-conflict protection and conservation. The State Party therefore proposes that an international conference should be convened to promote the safeguarding of cultural heritage, to highlight recent destruction, to prepare technical proposals and raise awareness of the need for financial support for implementation of the measures needed to necessary to protect and conserve Yemen's cultural heritage.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The security situation in Yemen continues to prevent both effective heritage management and physical conservation works within the property. Future donor support is necessarily constrained unless and until the security situation improves. However, the efforts of both GOPHCY and the Shibam community, under extremely challenging circumstances, should be acknowledged. In July 2015, UNESCO organized an Expert Meeting which elaborated an Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural heritage, with short, medium and long term actions, some of which can be conducted by the State Party with remote technical support by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, but which would require immediate financial support.

Owing to the security situation, it has not been possible to make progress with the preparation of a management plan, nor the Action Plan arising from the draft National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020, which was prepared in collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). The strategic objectives of this national strategy align with elements of the 'Urgent Action Plan' and of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) previously adopted by the Committee. It is highly desirable that this Action Plan be prepared taking into account the new developments related to the conflict, the UNESCO Emergency Action Plan of July 2015, reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies and implemented. However, without both political support and substantial allocation of public-sector resources, implementation of the Action Plan may prove challenging.

In coordination with the UNESCO Doha Office and ICCROM Athar, workshops focused on capacity building to respond to the effects of the continuing crisis and conflicts, have been organized in Amman, Cairo and Tunis, with a number of Yemeni experts being able to participate. The UNESCO Emergency Action Plan of July 2015 identified urgent actions to address the impact of the conflict on Yemeni heritage; however, the plans arising from this work are yet to be funded and implemented on site.

It would be desirable for a Reactive Monitoring mission to visit the property in order to advise on short-term repair works and to identify both the DSOCR and associated corrective measures, as soon as the security situation allows.

Pending improvements of the security situation, it would be appropriate for the international community to continue to express its support for the State Party and GOPHCY, and where possible to offer technical proposals and practical support.

### Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.25

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **22 BUR V.B.72** and **39 COM 7B.60**, adopted at the 22nd session of its Bureau (UNESCO, 1998) and at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015) respectively,
3. Expresses its concern at the recent damage caused to the Old Walled City of Shibam as a result of armed conflict, and that the property continues to be subject to significant threats from natural elements, and a lack of organisational support and material resources for physical conservation projects;
4. Acknowledges the efforts of the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY), the local authorities, and the community of Shibam to protect and conserve the property despite the very difficult conditions in the city;
5. Notes with regret that, owing to the security situation in Yemen, it has not been possible to prepare a management plan for the property, nor to progress on the draft 'National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020' nor to prepare a complementary Action Plan and requests the State Party

*to ensure that both the management plan and the Action Plan, when prepared, should address the current situation and include provisions for conservation of damaged buildings, local community awareness, and should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*

6. *Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, once the security situation has improved, to assess current conditions at the property, to advise on short-term repair and conservation works and to contribute to the development of a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);*
7. *Welcomes the continuing support of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) for Yemeni cultural heritage;*
8. *Calls on the international community to provide financial support for the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's cultural heritage, adopted at the UNESCO Expert meeting in July 2015;*
9. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;*
10. *Decides to retain the Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

## ASIA AND PACIFIC

### 26. Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) (C 208 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2003 to present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Site security not ensured;
- Long-term stability of the Giant Buddha niches not ensured;
- State of conservation of archaeological remains and mural paintings not adequate;
- Management Plan and Cultural Master Plan (the protective zoning plan) not implemented.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1287>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1287>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress; initial timeframe adopted now requires review

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/208/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2002)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/208/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 6,345,807 (2003-2014) from the Japanese Funds-in-Trust; USD 159,000 (2011-2012) from the Swiss Funds-in-Trust; USD 900,000 (2013) from the Italian Funds-in-Trust; USD 5,435,284 (2013-2016) from the Korean Funds-in-Trust.

Previous monitoring missions

November 2010: World Heritage Centre/ICCROM Advisory mission; April 2011: UNESCO Kabul/ICOMOS Advisory mission; May/June 2014 ICOMOS technical Advisory mission; UNESCO expert missions in the context of the implementation of specific projects.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Risk of imminent collapse of the Giant Buddha niches
- Irreversible deterioration of the mural paintings
- Looting, illicit traffic and illegal excavations of cultural heritage assets
- Continued use of certain heritage areas for military posts
- Anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordinances (i.e. munitions) (issue resolved)
- Development pressure

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/208/>

### Current conservation issues

On 23 February 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/208/documents>. However, it should be noted that this report contained a large number of activities carried out prior to 2015, making it difficult to have a clear picture of what has been done in 2015, in particular with regard to the recommendations and decisions made by the Committee at its 39th session. The World Heritage Centre solicited assistance from the UNESCO Office in Kabul to obtain further information necessary to provide the present accurate and updated report.

The State Party has, on several occasions, stated that it would like at least one of the Buddha niches to be partially reconstructed – most likely the Eastern one, as it is less damaged. In its report, it explains that several different proposals for such a project have been received, and that it wishes to pursue one of these options once the lower gallery of the Eastern Buddha niche is consolidated and sufficient funding available. An International Symposium is foreseen as part of the forthcoming Phase V of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-In-Trust (JFIT) project for the safeguarding of Bamiyan, in order to hold an in-depth discussion on this topic with all the relevant stakeholders. The State Party would also like to take this opportunity to discuss how to implement the recommendations made by the May/June 2014 ICOMOS technical Advisory mission.

In 2015, no major conservation work has been carried out in the Buddha niches, as the approval of Phase V of the UNESCO/JFIT project has been delayed. Consequently, the construction of the scaffolding in front of the Western Buddha niche remained incomplete, which may have caused some damage to the existing scaffolding.

Conservation works were carried out on the pre-Islamic site of Shari Gholgholah in 2015, thanks to financial support from the UNESCO/Italy FIT. A conservation treatment plan was developed to address the erosion issues at the site and to carry out some of the most urgent conservation work for endangered mud brick structures that are gradually collapsing. As part of this project, safe access to the site was also granted by stabilizing the walking paths.

Furthermore, the State Party's report underlines the urgent need for conservation at other components of the property. It reports that in some cases, remaining structures at the sites such as Shahri-Zohak, Kakrak and Shahi Gholgholah are in danger of collapsing and have been suffering from serious erosion. The report highlights that the relevant authorities' lack of expertise and financial resources to adequately deal with these urgent and serious issues.

Finally, it is reported that the finalized Management Plan has been integrated into the Bamiyan City Master Plan as a planning tool within the property through the Government Decree no 5432.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

It must be noted that no major conservation works could be carried out in the Buddha niches due to delays with the approval of the UNESCO/JFIT project for the safeguarding of the Bamiyan Valley. It is hoped that the project can be approved soon, which would allow the State Party and UNESCO to resume conservation works in both niches, and in particular the consolidation of the rear wall of the Western Buddha niche, which is considered the most urgent and crucial task.

The State Party's reports highlighted the need to urgently consolidate and conserve the other components of the property in the Bamiyan Valley, which have been gradually collapsing, thereby risking the loss of the property's integrity. It is recommended that the Committee call upon the international community to provide technical and financial support not only to the Buddha niches, but to the other sites inscribed as part of the property.

For the first time, the State Party formally expressed its plan to explore the partial reconstruction of at least one of the Buddha niches. It is recommended that, for any reconstruction project, the State Party strictly comply with the Committee's Decision **35 COM 7A.25**, which stated that any consideration of reconstruction should be based on an appropriate conservation philosophy based on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and on an overall approach to conservation and presentation of the property. Before any technical feasibility studies are undertaken, there is a need for any proposed reconstruction project to be justified in relation to OUV and for such an assessment to be developed in close consultation with all relevant stakeholders and reviewed by the Advisory Bodies.

It must be noted that the property's Management Plan has been finalized and incorporated into the Bamiyan City Master Plan, a planning tool aiming to control development pressure and carry out sustainable development projects. This is one of the key conditions for the efficient implementation of



the corrective measures adopted by the Committee in Decision **31 COM 7A.21** (Christchurch, 2007), and must therefore be welcomed as a significant step forward. However, no recent information has been provided on how the Management Plan is being implemented nor on how the Master Plan functions as a tool to control the strong development pressure observed over the past years. In view of recent reports of large-scale development pressures, there is a great need to enforce building codes and regulations for development projects in the buffer zones and the overall setting of the property. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request to be updated on these crucial issues.

The State Party's reports also indicate that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) has been carried out by a team from the Bamiyan University for the proposed Bamiyan Cultural Centre and Museum. However, this study's scope and objectives need to be clearly defined in order to deal with the impact that the setting of the project might have on the property's OUV.

Finally, improvements to site security must be noted and welcomed. In 2015, the Ministry of Information and Culture, in co-operation with the UNESCO Office in Kabul, has deployed eight on-site guards to each of the components of the serial property, in order to control illegal or unauthorized access to the site. In addition, the Ministry of the Interior has deployed a team of police officers for the protection of cultural properties, which have effectively stopped illicit trafficking and unauthorized access to the World Heritage property. Restoring the site's security is a precondition for the full implementation of the corrective measures and the safeguarding of the property's OUV, and it is recommended that the Committee welcome this important step towards the implementation of corrective measures.

In conclusion, positive developments have been observed in the implementation of corrective measures, although it is regrettable that conservation work in crucial areas such as the Western Buddha niche could not be continued. It is considered essential that an in-depth discussion take place as soon as possible between the State Party and the relevant experts, in order to establish a new timeframe leading to the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Finally it is essential that any proposals for reconstruction of the Eastern Buddha niche are appraised in relation to the OUV of the property, and reviewed by the Advisory Bodies for consideration in principle by the World Heritage Committee, before detailed technical and financial feasibility studies are undertaken.

### **Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.26**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.39**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Notes with satisfaction that the Management Plan has been officially adopted and integrated into the Bamiyan City Master Plan, a tool which aims to control development pressures, but regrets that no updated report has been submitted on how these mechanisms work, especially in view of the strong development pressures observed recently;*
4. *Urges the State Party to continue vigilantly implementing the Management Plan for the World Heritage property and the Bamiyan City Master plan, and to enforce building codes and regulations for development projects in the buffer zones of the property and other areas protected under the 2004 Afghan Law on the Protection of Historical and Cultural Properties;*
5. *Requests the State Party to carry out a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the proposed Cultural Centre and Museum in Bamiyan, in line with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties, after clearly defining the scope of this study with regard to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*

6. *Expresses its concerns over the state of conservation of some of the property's components which have been reported as being seriously deteriorated and in imminent danger of collapse, and calls upon the international community to provide technical and financial support not only to the Bamiyan Valley, but also to other components of this serial property, such as Shahri-Zohak, Kakrak and Shari Gholgholah, in order to help the State Party reach the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);*
7. *Also notes the State Party's wish to partially reconstruct at least one of the Buddha niches and reiterates its request that when considering for such work, any proposals are appraised in relation to the OUV of the property and on an agreed overall approach to conservation and presentation of the property, and that those are reviewed by the Advisory Bodies, for consideration by the World Heritage Committee, before detailed technical and financial feasibility studies are undertaken;*
8. *Also notes with satisfaction the progress accomplished by the State Party, in co-operation with the UNESCO Office in Kabul, in ensuring the site's security, and welcomes the deployment to each of the components of the property of eight on-site guards who, in addition to the police officers deployed by the Ministry of Interior, have effectively stopped illicit traffic of cultural property and increased the site's security;*
9. *Also urges the State Party to review, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures and to submit this revised timeframe to the World Heritage Centre, for examination by the Committee;*
10. *Also requests the State Party to elaborate and implement, with the support of international donors, a capacity-building programme to strengthen local and national capacities with regard to heritage conservation and management, including the development of the local communities' capacity to contribute to the safeguarding the property;*
11. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;*
12. ***Decides to retain Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

## **27. Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) (C 211 rev)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2002

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2002 to present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Lack of legal protection
- Lack of an effective monuments protection agency
- Lack of adequate protection and conservation personnel

- Lack of a comprehensive management plan

*Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger*

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1286>

*Corrective measures identified*

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1286>

*Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures*

In progress

*Previous Committee Decisions* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/211/documents>

*International Assistance*

Requests approved: 3 (from 1995-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 110,950

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/211/assistance/>

*UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds*

Total amount granted: USD 844,901 (2003-2012) from the Italian Funds-in-Trust; USD 124,300 (2003-2013) from the Swiss Funds-in-Trust.

*Previous monitoring missions*

Several annual UNESCO expert missions took place between 2002 and 2006 in order to implement the operational projects for the property. After a period of three years of inactivity from 2007 to 2009, due to the security situation, UNESCO dispatched a mission in cooperation with an Afghan local NGO in 2010 to resume the on-site operations.

*Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports*

- Political instability
- Inclination of the Minaret
- Lack of management plan;
- Illicit excavations and looting

*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/211/>

*Current conservation issues*

On 23 February 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/211/documents>. However, the document details a series of the activities that need to be carried out rather than providing an update on work that has been undertaken, and is identical to the one submitted in 2015.

The report indicates that the Afghan Government has identified a range of mitigation measures, including a monitoring system for the Minaret, through regular topographic measurements; capacity building programmes for national experts; topographic and archaeological surveys to redefine core and buffer zones; a damage assessment report; the protection of the site against illicit excavations; consolidation of the minaret structure; and emergency restoration of the surface decoration of the Minaret. The report further states that the South bank of the Hari Rud River should be consolidated through the extension of gabions and the planting of trees upstream of the Minaret.

The report also emphasizes the need to repair the guest houses and the importance of constructing a foot bridge over the Hari Rud, to enable year-round access for inhabitants of nearby villages and for conservation work.

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

It is deeply regrettable that the State Party has submitted almost identical state of conservation reports for several consecutive years, summarizing only the works which are required.

The need for construction of a footbridge over the Hari Rud River and the repair of the guest house, which was donated by UNESCO in 2003, was already noted in previous state of conservation. It is of concern that the State Party has to date not made any progress with the construction of the footbridge and not repaired the guest house, nor has the State Party provided any justification for the delay or

problems encountered. Furthermore, the report provided no information on how the security of the site is being maintained and monitored.

Regarding the need for accurate mapping of the archaeological remains and for the definition of appropriate boundaries and buffer zones for the property, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies would like to draw the attention of the Afghan Government to the detailed topography produced in 2012 as part of the UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust project for Jam and Herat. The comprehensive topography provided detailed boundaries for both the property and the buffer zone, which were elaborated taking into account surrounding archaeological remains. The adoption of the topographic map, as well as new boundaries proposed, by the relevant authorities would constitute an essential step towards developing and implementing an effective conservation strategy for the property. This strategy should include the important ancient settlement, the precise extent and remains of which have yet to be defined. Therefore, it is regrettable that the State Party has not yet proceeded with the adoption of this detailed topography for Jam.

It is noted that a Conservation Action Plan is being elaborated by the UNESCO Office in Kabul, in co-operation with the State Party and the World Heritage Centre, following the approval, in March 2015, of an Emergency International Assistance Request (IAR) under the World Heritage Fund (USD 73,750). It is strongly hoped that, on the basis of the Conservation Action Plan elaborated under the IAR, the State Party will (i) establish a concrete work plan for emergency conservation work as well as a regular monitoring system, (ii) have them approved and an appropriate budget allocated; and (iii) start implementing these actions as soon as possible.

Upon the approval by the Government of the budget necessary to carry out such a work plan, the State Party shall be able to propose a revised timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures identified by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), so as to achieve the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).

### **Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.27**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 39 COM 7A.38, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Deeply regrets that neither emergency measures nor conservation work have been undertaken in situ, and that no concrete report has been submitted providing precise and up-to-date information on the state of conservation of the property, including the security situation;*
4. *Also regrets that the State Party has neither adopted the detailed topographic map of the property, produced in 2012, nor submitted a proposal for minor boundary modification at this point in time, and requests the State Party to adopt the 2012 topographic map of the property and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, a proposal for a minor boundary modification, in accordance with Paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by ICOMOS;*
5. *Strongly urges the State Party to establish, on the basis of the Conservation Action Plan elaborated as part of the Emergency International Assistance granted under the World Heritage Fund, a realistic and concrete emergency and conservation work plan, including measures for site security, and also requests that this plan be approved along with the necessary budget in order to commence its implementation as soon as possible;*

6. *Calls upon* the international community for technical and financial support, in co-operation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, for the implementation of abovementioned Action Plan, which will be part of a Strategy to implement the corrective measures identified by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);
7. *Further requests* the State Party, upon development of the Conservation Strategy and Action Plan and in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to revise the timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**;
8. *Requests furthermore* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;
9. ***Decides to retain Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

## **NATURAL PROPERTIES**

### **LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN**

#### **32. Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) (N 764)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1996

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2009-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Sale and lease of public lands for the purposes of development within the property leading to the destruction of mangrove and marine ecosystems.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6208>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1825>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6208>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/764/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/764/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 140,000: i) USD 30,000 from the Rapid Response Facility for the monitoring of unauthorized activities in the Bladen Nature Reserves which were impacting the property; ii) USD 30,000 for emergency conservation actions in favour of the critically endangered wide sawfish (2010); iii) USD 80,000 in support of public use planning and site financing strategy development for the Blue Hole Natural Monument (2008-2009).

Previous monitoring missions

March 2009: joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2013: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2015: joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Technical Mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Sale and lease of public lands within the property
- Destruction of fragile ecosystems due to resort / housing development
- Oil concessions within the marine area
- Introduced species

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/764/>

Current conservation issues

On 18 March 2016 the State Party submitted a state of conservation report which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/764/documents/> and provides the following information regarding the

progress achieved towards the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR):

- In December 2015 the State Party announced a ban on offshore petroleum exploration within all seven components of the property, as well as within 1 km on either side of the Barrier Reef. In addition, the Petroleum Exploration Framework which will identify additional areas where petroleum exploration will be prohibited and/or restricted is currently being revised and will be finalized in 2016. Furthermore, as of January 2016 there are no longer any petroleum concessions within or around the property. All existing concessions overlapping or surrounding the property have expired and none were renewed;
- The Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan (ICZMP), the Land Use Policy and the National Protected Areas System Bill have been finalized and adopted. Funding has been secured for the implementation of the ICZMP through a project funded by the Adaptation Fund;
- Consultations with stakeholders on the draft Mangrove Regulations were undertaken in 2015 and the Terms of Reference for the review of the draft were finalized. The Terms of Reference now include a specific reference to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property in view of ensuring its future protection with regard to mangroves. The draft Fisheries Resources Bill will undergo a final review in 2016 and will then be submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers for approval;
- The moratorium on sale of national lands within the property remains in force. Information on the land tenure and status of lands within the property is being compiled;
- Under the project "Management and protection of Key Biodiversity Areas" funded by the Global Environment Facility, it is foreseen to revise and strengthen the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) system;
- New management plans will be prepared for the Glover's Reef Marine Reserve and South Water Caye Marine Reserve components of the property;
- A technical World Heritage Centre mission visited the property in December 2015 to assist the State Party in the implementation of the DSOCR.
- In the course of 2015 the State Party also submitted clarification on the boundaries of the property within the framework of the Retrospective inventory exercise.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The announcement by the State Party of a ban on offshore petroleum exploration within all seven components of the property and within one kilometre on either side of the Barrier Reef should be welcomed. However, this decision still needs to be translated into a legally binding instrument. Further, the adequacy of the one-kilometre buffer zone to provide added protection to the property's OUV needs to be further evaluated and subsequently the proposed buffer zone would need to be further adapted to match the requirements under the DSOCR. This should be linked to the currently ongoing elaboration of the Petroleum Exploration Framework and definition of additional areas that would be excluded from petroleum exploration and further restrictions on offshore petroleum development. It is critical that the protection of the property's OUV is fully incorporated into this process and the eventual outcome is in line with the requirements of the DSOCR. On 27 April 2016 the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party confirming that the World Heritage Centre and IUCN are ready to provide technical assistance to the State Party in identifying measures required to fully achieve the respective indicator of the DSOCR related to offshore petroleum exploration. It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee encourage the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Advisory mission to provide technical advice with regards to this indicator.

The finalization and adoption of the ICZM and the securing of funding for its implementation should be commended. However, it will be crucial to ensure that the necessary resources are also available for the implementation of the Management Plan in the long term.

The development of the Terms of Reference for the revision of the draft Mangrove Regulations is noted. Finalization of the Regulations needs to be given the highest priority in order to ensure that the mangrove areas within the property are effectively protected. It should also be recalled that at the time of the adoption of the DSOCR it was noted that a baseline figure of mangrove cover within the property would need to be confirmed and the respective indicator of the DSOCR would need to be

updated accordingly. No suggestion has been received from the State Party in this regard. It is recommended that this issue is also discussed during the Advisory mission recommended above.

Consistent with the DSCOR, the revision of the existing EIA provisions is equally crucial to ensure that no areas within the property and in its immediate vicinity are developed in ways that negatively impact on the property's OUV. It is further noted that the voluntary moratorium on sale and lease of lands within the property remains in place but it is essential that a legally binding mechanism is put in place to ensure a permanent cessation of sales and leases of state owned land throughout the property. The information on land tenure status within the property that is being compiled by the State Party is essential to enable an assessment of progress achieved towards the implementation of the DSOCR. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are ready to assist the State Party with technical advice to help accomplish the respective indicators related to coastal development and mangrove protection under the DSOCR.

The clarifications on the property boundaries submitted are satisfactory and will be presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session for approval (see Document WHC/16/40.COM/8D).

Finally, while the efforts undertaken by the State Party are welcomed, some key issues remain to be resolved, as outlined above. It is therefore recommended that the World Heritage Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

### **Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.32**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 39 COM 7A.18, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Welcoming the efforts undertaken by the State Party towards the implementation of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), including the announcement of a ban on offshore petroleum exploration within all seven components of the property and within one kilometre on either side of the Barrier Reef, notes that this policy announcement still needs to be translated into a legislative instrument and that the adequacy of the one-kilometre buffer zone needs revision to secure the protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the full implementation of the indicator under the DSOCR;*
4. *Also notes that the Petroleum Exploration Framework is currently being revised and that this document will define further areas that would be excluded from offshore petroleum exploration, as well as other restrictions, and requests the State Party to ensure that the protection of the property's OUV is fully integrated into the revision of the Framework in line with the requirements under the DSOCR;*
5. *Also welcomes the adoption of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan (ICZMP) and the provision of funding for its initial implementation and strongly encourages the State Party to ensure that the resources required for the long term implementation of the Plan are secured;*
6. *Takes note of the confirmation made by the State Party that a voluntary moratorium on sale and lease of lands within the property remains in place and reiterates its request to the State Party to develop a legally binding instrument to ensure a permanent cessation of all sales and leases of state owned land throughout the property;*



7. Urges the State Party to finalize and adopt the Mangrove Regulations in order to ensure that the mangrove areas within the property are effectively protected and requirements under the DSOCR are fully met;
8. Also strongly encourages the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Advisory mission to provide the necessary assistance in the elaboration of the abovementioned legislative instruments related to offshore petroleum exploration as well as the overall implementation of the indicators of the DSOCR ;
9. Further welcomes the revision of the Environmental Impact Assessment system and also urges the State Party to fully integrate the protection of the property's OUV into this process to ensure that the revised regulations guarantee that no areas within the property and in its immediate vicinity can be developed in ways that would negatively impact on the property's OUV, consistent with the requirements under the DSOCR;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;
11. Decides to retain **Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## AFRICA

### 34. Manovo Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic) (N 475)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1997-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Illegal grazing
- Uncontrolled poaching by heavily armed groups subsequent loss of up to 80% of the Park's wildlife and the deteriorating security situation
- Halt to tourism

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger  
Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1761>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1761>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified;

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/475/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 2001-2012)

Total amount approved: USD 225,488

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/475/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

May 2001 and April 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Insecurity
- Poaching
- Mining
- Transhumance and illegal grazing
- Illegal fishing
- Illegal occupation of the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/475/>

Current conservation issues

On 7 April 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/475/documents/>. The State Party has not yet issued an invitation for a Reactive Monitoring mission requested by the Committee in its Decision **38 COM 7A.34**, organised the workshop to assess the feasibility of the reestablishment of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and prepared an Emergency Action Plan.

The report provides the following information:

- Negotiations with the European Union have resulted in funding for the ECOFAUNE + project to strengthen wildlife conservation, support the land use development process, improve resources and provide support for local development in the vast northern region where the property is located;
- The construction of a central base and the development of trails and salt marshes within the property are foreseen in the framework of the Central Africa Biodiversity Conservation Programme – Protecting Central Africa's Elephants (CABCP - PCAE) funded by the African Development Bank (ADB). This Programme also benefits from funding amounting to 150 million francs CFA (260,000 US dollars), for two years from the Southern Africa Enterprise Development Fund (SAEDF). Land use, security measures and the enhancement of the Village Cynegetic Zones (VCZ) and the hunting zones around the property are also foreseen;
- The implementation of several technical activities is evoked without however any distinction made between the recent activities and the activities having taken place between 2008 and 2012;
- Insecurity following the Darfour conflict, transhumance from Chad and Sudan, as well as continuing trans-border poaching are among the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the corrective measures.

On 13 November 2015, the State Party submitted a summary report of the Bangui National Forum relating to the restoration of peace, which took place from 4 to 11 May 2015.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The Bangui National Forum represented an important occasion for the State Party and the Central African people to address the political and security crisis. One must hope that the commitments undertaken during this Forum will enable a progressive restoration of peace and an improvement in the security situation throughout the country, including in the region where the property is located. However, it will take time before stability is restored, meanwhile the security in and around the property remains a problem.

Confirmation of European Commission funding for the ECOFAUNE + Project is favourably welcomed, as well as the activities related to land use, security, and the enhancement of the VCZs foreseen in the framework of the CABCP-PCAE. However, it must be recalled that during the 39th session of the Committee, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN noted that despite the continued efforts of the State Party in the implementation of the ECOFAUNE + Project in the North-east region of the country in a difficult security situation, no surveillance activity was possible in the majority of the areas of the project and notably inside the property. The State Party report, in invoking the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the corrective measures, indicates that the situation inside the property remains serious as regards security and the effects of transhumance and trans-border poaching. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide additional information on security, fight against poaching and restructuration activities currently ongoing inside the property.

The commitment of the State Party to continue the implementation of the ECOFAUNE + and CABCP – PCAE project should be warmly welcomed and encouraged. However, with continuing insecurity and extremely important pressures threatening the property, and in the absence of data enabling an analysis of the current situation, the perspectives for the restoration of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property still appear questionable. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to organize a workshop to assess the feasibility for the restoration of the OUV of the property under the current security conditions and, based on the conclusions of this workshop, prepare an emergency action plan focused on the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 33rd session (Sevilla, 2009). Recalling the concerns expressed by the Committee since its 38th session (Doha, 2014) regarding the possible loss of OUV of the property, it is also recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission as soon as the security situation permits, to assess the state of conservation of the property and to determine if there are perspectives for the regeneration of the characteristics of the property justifying its OUV, or whether the removal of the property from the World Heritage List should be envisaged.

Currently, it is recommended that the Committee maintain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism.

### **Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.34**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.34** and **39 COM 7A.1** adopted respectively at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions,
3. Takes note of the Bangui National Forum relating to the restoration of peace and expresses the hope that the commitments undertaken as a result of this Forum will enable a progressive improvement of the security situation in the country, including in the zone where the property is located;
4. However, notes with concern that insecurity continues to complicate the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009);
5. Reiterates its deep concern regarding the probable loss of most of the flagship species of large mammals in the property, due to poaching and impact from grazing cattle;
6. Also reiterates its continuing concern regarding the fact that the property has already lost its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), which could result in its removal from the World Heritage List, in conformity with Paragraph 176d) of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Warmly welcomes the commitment of the State Party to pursue the implementation of the ECOFAUNE + Project with the support of the European Union, as well as the land use and security activities foreseen in and around the property in the framework of the Central Africa Biodiversity Conservation Programme – Protecting Central Africa’s Elephants funded by the African Development Bank and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts;
8. Reiterates its request to the State Party to organize a workshop to assess the feasibility for the restoration of the OUV of the property under the current security conditions and based on this, to prepare an emergency action plan, focused on the adopted corrective measures;
9. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission as soon as the security situation permits to assess the state of conservation of the property and determine whether there remain perspectives for the regeneration of the characteristics of the property justifying its OUV, or if a removal of the property from the World Heritage List in accordance with Paragraph IV.C of the Operational Guidelines should be envisaged;
10. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;
11. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for this property;
12. Also decides to retain **Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Central African Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

### **36. Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea) (N 155bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1992-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Iron-ore mining concession inside the property in Guinea
- Arrival of large numbers of refugees from Liberia to areas in and around the Reserve
- Insufficient institutional structure

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger  
Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4982>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 20 (from 1981-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 482,588

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 25,282 from the Rapid Response Facility in January 2012 (see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/830/>)

Previous monitoring missions

October/November 1988: World Heritage Centre mission; 1993: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission; 1994: IUCN mission; 2000: World Heritage Centre mission; 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to Guinea; 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to Côte d'Ivoire; 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Mining
- Influx of refugees
- Agricultural encroachment
- Deforestation
- Poaching
- Weak management capacity
- Lack of resources
- Lack of trans-boundary cooperation

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/>

Current conservation issues

On 9 February 2016, the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire submitted its report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/documents/>. On 20 March 2016, the State Party of Guinea submitted a report on the activities carried out within the framework of the project for protection of the biodiversity of the property through integrated and participatory management financed by the World Heritage Fund.

The report of the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire indicated the following:

- The boundaries of the property have been revised with the participation of the local communities and have been marked on the ground. Their validation should be effective in 2016 with the adoption of a decree redefining and updating the boundaries of the Ivorian part of the property;
- Funding from the World Heritage Fund was mobilized to strengthen surveillance, estimated at a cost of 1000 man-days;
- Joint patrols that were planned by the two countries could not be carried out for reasons related to the Ebola epidemic in Guinea;
- Forest officers were trained in anti-poaching. Thirty will be assigned to Mount Nimba;
- Adjustments and a strengthening of surveillance are foreseen during the 2016-2020 period.

The report only describes the efforts made for surveillance of the property, the main results of which are as follows:

- Almost all of the poaching tracks are closed;
- Nests of chimpanzees, more than twenty monkeys, duikers, buffalos, bush pigs, bongos, birds, squirrels and traces of other animals have been observed;

The report of the State Party of Guinea provides the following information:

- Four awareness-raising meetings were organized focusing on specific issues of the four areas of the property. 234 people participated;
- Patrols were carried out and were successful in apprehending poachers, and identifying illegal occupants;
- 18 terminals were installed to finalize the geo-referencing of the boundaries of the property;
- Ecological monitoring of 3 species (unspecified) was initiated;
- A meeting to approve the management and conservation plan of the site was organized.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The efforts made by the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire in monitoring as well as updating the property boundaries are welcomed. However, the reference to a decree of "redefinition" of boundaries seems to go beyond the materialization of the limits as recommended by the mission in 2013, which found that the demarcation on the ground had erroneously excluded a 500 to 750 hectares cleared parcel of the property containing a cacao plantation. More details are therefore needed on this decree to confirm that the limits are not redefined to exclude these degraded areas of the property.

However, the absence of a functioning ecological monitoring system at the two components of the property does not enable an evaluation of the impact of human pressure on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Poaching is the only human pressure recalled by the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire, whilst agricultural encroachment and timber exploitation are also problematic. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterates its request to the States Parties of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea to implement a joint system of monitoring the property to control all anthropogenic pressures.

The management difficulties experienced in both countries are more marked in the Guinean part where human and operational resources have decreased significantly since the end of the UNDP / GEF (Global Environment Facility) project in 2013. Although eight new cases of Ebola have been confirmed since February 2016 in the southern region of Guinea, the stabilization of the sanitary situation should enable the two States Parties to resume their efforts towards the implementation of corrective measures and to set a timetable for achieving them. Thus, it is recommended that the Committee also reiterates its request to both States Parties to partner with UNDP and GEF to develop the second phase of the Nimba project, which would concern the two components, to promote the implementation of corrective measures for safeguarding the integrity of the property.

The report provided by the State Party of Guinea allows of recognition of the progress made in several actions requested by the Committee, particularly in terms of awareness-raising of local communities, surveillance and the demarcation of the site. These different accomplishments reflect a positive trend that should be pursued and strengthened. The report, however, remains insufficient, as various information requested by the Committee is not reflected therein. Notably, no information is provided

regarding the status of the mining projects of West Africa Exploration (WAE) and the Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée (SMFG), nor of environmental impact assessments (EIAs). Recalling the significant concern expressed by the Committee at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015) regarding the environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) of the operating concession granted to WAE and which was not conducted in accordance with international standards as initially requested in Decision **37 COM 7A.3** (Phnom Penh, 2013), it is recommended that the Committee reiterates this request to the State Party of Guinea. It is also recommended that the Committee also reiterates its request to the State Party of Guinea to develop a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of all mining projects being developed or planned in the environs of the property and to revise the boundaries of the exploration permit granted to the SAMA Resources Company to ensure that there is no overlapping with the property.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

### **Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.36**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.3**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Notes the efforts made by the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire to strengthen the monitoring and update the property boundaries with the participation of the local communities but requests the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire to provide details of the decree for the redefinition of the boundaries;*
4. *Also notes the progress made by the State Party of Guinea in the implementation of the international assistance project for the protection of the biodiversity of the property by an integrated and participatory management, financed by the World Heritage Fund, encourages the State Party of Guinea to continue and strengthen the actions being carried out, but regrets that the report provided does not give information about several measures requested by the Committee;*
5. *Further notes that the implementation of corrective measures continued to be affected by the health crisis caused by the Ebola epidemic, and considers however that the normalization of the health situation in the region should enable the States Parties to resume their efforts to implement the corrective measures;*
6. *Reiterates its requests to both States Parties to implement a joint monitoring system of the property to control all anthropogenic pressures, and to partner with UNDP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to develop the second phase of the Nimba Project, to concern the entire property, in order to promote the implementation of the corrective measures to safeguard the integrity of the property;*
7. *Also requests the State Party of Guinea to strictly ensure the preparation of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the West Africa Exploration Company in accordance with international standards as requested in Decision **37 COM 7A.3** (Phnom Penh, 2013), and to submit this ESIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, before authorizing the project;*
8. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party of Guinea to develop a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), in line with international standards, to qualify and quantify all the potential cumulative impacts of various mining projects planned on the*

*Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, as recommended by the 2013 monitoring mission for the property and the IUCN World Heritage advice note on Environmental Assessment, and submit the results to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, before any decision on these projects, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*

9. *Further reiterates its request to the State Party of Guinea to revise the boundaries of the exploration permit granted to the SAMA Resources Company to ensure that there is no overlapping with the property;*
10. *Further requests the States Parties of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2017, a joint updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017 ;*
11. ***Decides to retain Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire / Guinea) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

**Note : the following report needs to be read in conjunction with Item 42 below.**

### **37. Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 136)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (vii)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1984-1992, 1996-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Increased poaching
- Pressure linked to the civil war, thereby threatening the flagship species of the property

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

A draft was prepared during the 2010 reactive monitoring mission (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/documents/>) but indicators need to be quantified on the basis of the results of the aerial surveys.

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4082>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 13 (from 1980-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 323,270

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 937,000 from the United Nations Foundation, the Governments of Italy, Belgium and Spain and the Rapid Response Facility.



### Previous monitoring missions

2006, 2010 and 2016: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict and political instability
- Poaching by nationals and trans-border armed groups
- Unadapted management capabilities to address the poaching crisis

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/>

### Current conservation issues

On 5 February 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property. A joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property from 29 February to 8 March 2016. The two reports are available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/documents>.

The State Party reports the following:

- Further actions have been taken to reduce the risk of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) personnel involvement in poaching;
- Additional supplies and equipment for park guards have been acquired and deployed;
- Law enforcement operations have been further strengthened through establishment of a new operations room, a rapid reaction force and installation of necessary park infrastructure;
- Integration of FARDC and the Regional Task Force (FIR) has led to disarmament of Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) insurgents and other armed groups around Garamba;
- Aerial law enforcement surveillance activities were expanded to cover the entire park and 65% of the adjoining Hunting Areas;
- A socio-economic study in the three Hunting Areas was implemented to inform the development of a suitable conservation strategy for these areas;
- Community-based conservation activities around the park were strengthened, and ongoing support was given with the provision of health and education services by the park.

The State Party also reports that recognition of individual giraffes has enabled giraffe population estimation of at least 40 individuals and notes that aerial surveillance of 19 radio-collared elephants has enabled estimation of the total population at around 1,500 animals. The populations of most of the property's other prominent mammals are reportedly increasing. There was a significant reduction in the number of elephant carcasses in 2015 and no giraffe was killed.

The State Party also notes a number of issues which continue to impact on the property, including insecurity and political instability in neighbouring South Sudan, presence of armed Mbororo cattle-keepers, loss of nine park rangers killed in action, the continuing strength of international ivory markets, and uncontrolled immigration of people into the Hunting Areas.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The continuing insecurity in the region and the heavy poaching pressure have continued to degrade the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and pose a significant risk to the park's security personnel. In addition to the nine casualties reported by the State Party, on 24 April 2016, the Chief Executive Officer of African Parks issued a statement regarding a shootout with elephant poachers which killed three rangers and severely injured one ranger and the park manager. The unrelenting efforts of the Congolese Nature Conservation Institute (Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature - ICCN) and its partners (especially African Parks) in securing the park and countering the poaching pressure deserve to be commended, and it is recommended that the Committee express its most sincere condolences to the families of the guards and soldiers who lost their lives.

The northern white rhino must now be considered extinct in the wild, while the population of elephants has been reduced by well over 90% (from 22,000 in 1976, to 11,000 in 1995, and to about 1,500 animals today). The country's only population of giraffe now stands at a critically low number of around 40 individuals. Poaching pressure is exacerbated by insecurity and political instability in South Sudan and by the presence of armed Mbororo cattle-keepers, while the use of a helicopter for the mass

killing of elephants has continued with a fourth incident in August 2015, which was responsible for the death of 8 elephants. The OUV of the property is severely degraded and could be lost if urgent action to reverse the downward population trend of key species is not taken.

Fortunately, the recently reduced threat from LRA insurgents has enabled a major change in law enforcement strategy since May 2014, with protection efforts now extended to the entire property, as well as significant parts of the adjoining Hunting Areas. It is recommended that the Committee commend these efforts and the early signs of success resulting from greatly increased levels of aerial surveillance, the strengthening and re-equipping of the ranger force, collaboration with the FARDC, development of necessary park infrastructure and a strategic emphasis on ranger mobility, rapid deployment capability and use of intelligence information.

While there has been progress in the implementation of the corrective measures, the mission considered that further progress is required to halt and reverse the degradation of OUV, in particular to monitor and protect the few remaining giraffe, further develop necessary park infrastructure, and more sustainable financing of park operations. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to implement the new and revised corrective measures as set out in the mission report.

The World Heritage Centre has started separate consultations respectively with the State Parties of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and South Sudan, as well as Central African Republic, in view of convening a meeting on the security in the region.

The mission, in consultation with park's managers, revised the indicators initially envisaged in the draft of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) proposed by the 2010 mission (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/documents>). Progress in achieving these should be monitored through the resumption of regular aerial wildlife censuses. While the mission considered that these indicators could be achieved within five years if the current management efforts are maintained and further increased, it should be noted that it will likely take several decades for the property's wildlife populations to achieve pre-war (1995) levels. Therefore, it will be crucial to further improve the security situation in the region to ensure that the recovery of OUV, once on its way, can be sustained. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its invitation to the Director-General of UNESCO to organize, in cooperation with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), a high-level meeting between the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and South Sudan, as well as Central African Republic and other potential stakeholders on how to improve security in the region and address the poaching issue.

In the meantime, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism.

### **Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.37**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.8**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Commends the efforts of the staff of the property who continue their actions for the conservation of the property, often at great risk, and expresses its most sincere condolences to the families of the guards and soldiers killed in operations for the protection of the property;*
4. *Expresses its deepest concern over continuing insecurity around the property and ongoing poaching pressure, particularly targeted at elephants and driven by international ivory trafficking;*
5. *Reiterates its great concern that the northern white rhino is now considered to be extinct in the property and in the wild, that populations of elephants and other key*

species have continued to decline and Congolese giraffe are now reaching critically low numbers, and as a result the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property could be lost if urgent action to reverse the downward population trends is not taken;

6. Also commends the State Party, particularly the Congolese Nature Conservation Institute (ICCN) and its partner, African Parks Network for their continuous efforts to further strengthen law enforcement operations by extending aerial and ground surveillance to cover the entire property as well as adjacent Hunting Areas that serve as important buffer zones for the property;
7. Requests the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the corrective measures, updated by the 2016 mission, as follows:
  - a) Further strengthen anti-poaching efforts through continued close collaboration with the Congolese armed forces (FARDC) and development of highly skilled, motivated and properly equipped field personnel,
  - b) Further enhance trans-boundary cooperation with South Sudan, particularly in relation to the management of adjacent Lantoto National Park, and efforts to curb poaching and illegal cross-border trade in wildlife products,
  - c) Complete the establishment and deployment of a team of at least 200 operational guards incorporating carefully selected elements from FARDC,
  - d) Maintain an effective year-round surveillance of the entire park and at least 50% of the surrounding Hunting Areas, increasing the extent and frequency of ground patrols whilst maintaining the existing levels of aerial surveillance,
  - e) Establish a conservation strategy for the Hunting Areas and develop a recognized Buffer Zone for the World Heritage property which serves to strengthen the protection of the property's OUV,
  - f) Support and strengthen economic development activities for communities around the property to promote sustainable livelihoods, reduce dependence on park resources and ensure that neighbouring communities understand and support conservation efforts,
  - g) Maintain close surveillance of the few remaining Congo giraffe and establish appropriate measures to ensure their protection,
  - h) Further develop the park's infrastructure, extending the road network, and installing additional radio repeater stations, observation posts and other installations to facilitate efficient and effective protection and management of the entire property, especially the northern sectors,
  - i) Work towards sustainable financing of park management, identifying and developing a range of income sources, including trust funds, business and tourism opportunities;
8. Takes notes of the revision proposed by the 2016 mission of the indicators of the draft Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, the final version of the DSOCR for adoption by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;
9. Also takes note of the ongoing consultation carried out by UNESCO in view of convening a meeting on the security in the region, and reiterates its invitation to the Director-General of UNESCO to organize, in cooperation with United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), a high-level meeting between the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and South

*Sudan, as well as Central African Republic and other potential stakeholders on how to improve security in the region and address the poaching issue;*

10. ***Further requests*** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;
11. ***Decides*** to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to the property;
12. ***Also decides*** to retain **Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

#### **42. General Decision on the properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**

##### Current conservation issues

On 5 February 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of implementation of the General Decision that is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/documents/> and provides the following updates:

- On 15 June 2015, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) published decree No. 15/012 on the establishment of a Corps established to strengthen security in the DRC National Parks (CorPPN) and related nature reserves. This decision falls within the framework of the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration. The institution is placed under the authority of the Ministry of National Defense, Environment and Tourism and coordinated by the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN). CorPPN staff members will be recruited from the national army, police, specialized security services, conservators and ICCN guards;
- Collaboration between ICCN and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) has improved. Military contingents are deployed in all the sites where joint patrols are working to strengthen security;
- The Hydrocarbons Code was promulgated in August 2015 by the President of the Republic;
- Two inter-ministerial meetings were held in October and December 2015 to try to resolve the issue of mining concessions overlapping protected areas. These meetings have not yielded significant results;
- No oil exploration activity was observed in 2015 in Virunga National Park. However, the report notes that the State Party "retains the option to formally contact the World Heritage Centre to solicit a mission of the Advisory Bodies to discuss the oil issue in the property" (see report on Virunga National Park in WHC/16/40.COM/7A);
- Substantial resources have been mobilized for the sustainable financing of the properties. These contributions from the European Commission, the World Bank and the German Development Bank (KfW - Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau) are allocated either to the Okapi Trust Fund for Nature Conservation, or invested directly in the conservation of the properties concerned. For example, the support programme of the 11th EDF (European Development Fund) will support the Virunga, Garamba and Salonga National Parks.

##### Analysis and conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The establishment of a Corps to strengthen security in the National Parks (CorPPN), which reaffirms the government's commitment to implement the Kinshasa Declaration, should be welcomed.

The State Party's efforts to secure the sites are commendable, however insecurity in and around the properties remains a persistent problem. The ICCN staff sustained heavy casualties and many wounded in the last twelve months: since April 2015, nine ICCN guards and three FARDC soldiers were killed in the line of duty in Garamba National Park. In March 2016, a guard was killed in Kahuzi-Biega National Park, two guards killed in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve and two more in the Virunga National Park. It is recommended that the Committee expresses its condolences to the families of guards and soldiers killed in protection operations for the property.

It is regrettable that although the Hydrocarbons Code was adopted in August 2015, Article 155 of the new Code (formerly Article 160), which provides for the possibility of declassifying protected areas including World Heritage properties in order to conduct oil exploration activities, has been maintained despite the requests of the World Heritage Committee. In addition, the State Party indicates that it may also solicit an advisory mission to study the possibility of amending the boundaries of Virunga National Park. It is recommended that the Committee expresses its deep concern about Article 155 of the new Hydrocarbons Code and reiterates its request to the State Party to cancel the oil exploration concessions in the properties of the National Parks of Virunga and Salonga. It is also recommended that the Committee reiterates its position that oil exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status. It is regrettable that despite several inter-ministerial meetings, no progress was noted on the issue of mining concessions overlapping protected areas. It is recommended that the Committee requests the State Party to take the necessary measures for the cancellation of all licenses granted for mining activities that encroach on the territories of the properties in accordance with the law in force.

The efforts made towards the census of large mammals are welcomed, however, the preliminary analysis of the first sectors in Kahuzi-Biega National Park (KBNP) indicate that the populations of Grauer gorillas and chimpanzees might be considered critically endangered according to the criteria of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Mining is one of the major threats to their habitats (see the report on the KBNP in Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A).

In several properties inventories have shown that the biological indicators of populations of iconic species such as the northern white rhino, Kordofan giraffe, gorilla, chimpanzee and elephant, have decreased considerably. Decisive action is needed to reverse these trends. Notably, the pressure on populations of elephants and giraffes in Garamba National Park remains very strong. It is recommended that the Committee recalls the importance of intensifying anti-poaching efforts and expresses its deep concern about the biological trends in the decline of some key species.

The UN Security Council, during renewal of the MONUSCO Mandate (Mission of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo) in March 2016, included a paragraph in the preamble to its Resolution 2277 (2016): "*Expressing concern at the illegal exploitation and trafficking of natural resources by armed groups, and the negative impact of armed conflict on protected natural areas, which undermines lasting peace and development in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and encouraging the Government of the DRC to continue efforts to safeguard those areas*". In addition, the Security Council authorizes MONUSCO "*to encourage the consolidation of an effective national civilian structure that controls key mining activities and manages in an equitable manner the extraction, transport and trade of natural resources in eastern DRC*".

The efforts made to mobilize funding for the properties of the DRC are considerable, in particular for the Virunga, Salonga and Garamba National Parks which will receive funding under the 11th European Development Fund, with a budget of 120 million Euros for the DRC. Other important financial support from Germany and the World Bank is also available to implement corrective actions and community conservation programmes.

### **Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.42**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Documents WHC/16/40.COM/7A and WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 39 COM 7A.9, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015) and reiterating the need to implement the Kinshasa Declaration adopted in 2011,*

3. *Addresses its most sincere condolences to the families of the guards and soldiers killed during operations to protect the properties, and expresses its deep concern about the persistent insecure situation in most of the properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC);*
4. *Warmly welcomes the creation of the Corps established to strengthen security in the DRC National Parks (CorPPN) which demonstrates the commitment of the State Party to implement the Kinshasa Declaration, and requests the State Party to rapidly provide it with the human and financial resources to enable the deployment of troops in the sites;*
5. *Commends the State Party for its efforts to secure sustainable funding, and warmly thanks the donors for their substantial support to the properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;*
6. *Notes with satisfaction United Nations Security Council Resolution 2277 of 30 March 2016 adopted during the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), which commits the DRC Government to continue its actions to preserve the protected natural areas and which allows MONUSCO to encourage the consolidation of an effective national civil structure that controls the main mining activities and manages in an equitable manner the extraction, transportation and trade of natural resources in the eastern DRC;*
7. *Reiterates its utmost concern about the new Hydrocarbons Code which provides the possibility to declassify protected areas, including World Heritage properties, to conduct oil exploration and exploitation activities, and about the intention of the State Party to officially address the World Heritage Centre to request an Advisory Body mission to discuss the oil issue in the property;*
8. *Reiterates with insistence its request to the State Party to ensure the maintenance of the protection status of World Heritage properties and to cancel any such concessions for oil exploration and mining exploration or exploitation encroaching on one of the five properties, and reiterates its position that oil and gas exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, which is supported by the commitments made by industry leaders such as Shell and Total not to undertake such activities within World Heritage properties ;*
9. *Recalls that the modifications to the boundaries of World Heritage properties that are related to the extractive industries must follow the procedure for significant modifications of the boundaries in accordance with paragraph 165 of the Operational Guidelines, taking into account the potential impact of such projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
10. *Regrets that, despite several inter-ministerial meetings, no progress has been noted on the issue of mining concessions overlapping protected areas and urges the State Party to take the necessary steps to cancel all licenses granted for mining activities which encroach on the properties, in accordance with the law in force;*
11. *Commends the progress made by the State Party to conduct complete inventories at several sites, also notes with significant concern the results of ecological inventories, notably of Kahuzi-Biega and Garamba National Parks, which show significant decline of flagship species of these properties, and also urges the State Party to continue these efforts to protect the properties, to implement corrective measures and combat heavy poaching of iconic species, which remains the major threat to the OUV of the properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;*

12. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, a detailed report on the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration, on the security situation in the properties, on the status of the mining exploration and exploitation concessions encroaching on the World Heritage properties, and on the Hydrocarbons Code, for examination by the Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

#### **46. Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) (N 153)**

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add.2

#### **47. Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 199bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2014-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Poaching and the ensuing dramatic declines in elephant populations, and the effects thereof on the ecosystem

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger  
Drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1984-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 67,980

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

June 2007, November 2008 and December 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Significant decline of wildlife populations due to poaching
- Insufficient funding and management
- Mineral and hydrocarbon prospecting and mining
- Tourism management and development
- Proposed dam development

- Operationalizing the uranium mining project
- Lack of disaster preparedness
- Need for buffer zone
- Need for increased involvement of local communities
- Alien invasive species

*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 26 February 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/documents>, which reports progress in addressing conservation issues previously raised by the Committee as follows:

- No mining permits were issued in the property, while recalling the legal possibility of prospecting or mining of oil, gas or uranium in all Tanzanian game reserves since 2009;
- Mobilization of significant support from multilateral, bilateral and NGO sources;
- Increased capacity and efforts in combating poaching resulting in a stabilization of the situation in the property;
- Efforts to enhance coordination among governmental agencies, including through the creation of a multi-agency task force to fight environmental and wildlife crimes;
- Increased bilateral efforts, including an agreement on the transboundary Niassa-Selous Ecosystem signed with Mozambique, as well as efforts to address illegal wildlife trade involving China, in addition to ongoing regional coordination;
- Establishment of the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) in October 2015;
- Ongoing stakeholder consultations on the possible addition of new areas to the property at its western boundary and on the creation of a buffer zone;
- Appointment of an inter-ministerial team to monitor the Mkuju River Project (MRP) uranium mine and efforts to establish baselines for water monitoring;
- Confirmation that Uranium One envisages In-Situ Leaching (ISL) at MRP and that no approval for ISL has been granted so far. As for disaster preparedness, reference is made to previously provided information contained in an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for MRP;
- Brazilian construction company Odebrecht has been nominated exclusively to develop the Stiegler's Gorge Dam project. The company has appointed a local consulting firm to produce an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), jointly with an international expert to be identified. The EIA is reported to start soon and to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre upon completion;
- Submission of the EIA for the proposed Kidunda Dam to the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) for final processing and subsequent sharing with the World Heritage Centre;

Follow-up to all recommendations of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission is ongoing, including the elaboration of a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), which was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 16 May 2016.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The inauguration of TAWA and the increased overall capacity, including additional external support, represent opportunities to improve the management of the property and its surroundings. It will be critically important to effectively operationalize TAWA without delay and to ensure coordination among partners.

Despite signs that the dramatic past decline of elephants could be halted, a cautious interpretation of the survey data continues to be necessary, as specified in the 2013 mission report. While efforts to cooperate with destination countries of illegal wildlife products indicate an increasingly sophisticated response, much still needs to be done to resolve the poaching crisis in order to achieve a doubling of elephant and buffalo populations as proposed in the DSOCR. Studies are ongoing to fill data gaps on



the elephant population and to enable the determination, by 2017, of a proposed timeframe for achieving the DSOCR. It should be recalled that the 2013 mission concluded that in addition to elephant, black rhinoceros has also been severely affected by poaching, and that it recommended that the DSOCR should include clear indicators for both elephant and rhino. It is understood that the current availability of data on the black rhinoceros population in the property does not permit the definition in the DSOCR of a clear indicator for its recovery, and it is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to undertake an analysis of the current situation of the black rhinoceros, in order to estimate the number of rhino left in the property, to inform the response required to secure it, and to update the DSOCR accordingly. It is also recommended that the Committee urge again (Decision **39 COM 7A.14**) the State Party to develop and implement a comprehensive emergency Action Plan with the objective of halting poaching within the Larger Selous Ecosystem within 12 months, as originally recommended by the 2013 mission.

The appointment of an inter-ministerial team and reported water monitoring related to the Mkuju River Project uranium mine are welcome. It is important to recall the Committee's request (Decision **38 COM 7B.95**) to conduct independent quantitative and qualitative water monitoring, to undertake a new EIA in case of the application of ISL and to ensure disaster preparedness. More detailed information is needed on progress made in that regard and on the overall project status in order to assess whether these Committee requests have been adequately implemented.

Since 2012 (Decision **36 COM 8B.43**), the Committee has been requesting the State Party to not engage in any mining activities inside the property, a commitment which was confirmed by the State Party in 2015. Yet the public cadaster of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals (<http://portal.mem.go.tz/map/>) indicates a major overlap between the property and mining prospecting licenses, a concern raised already by the 2013 mission, some of which have been granted for commodities other than those permitted under the Wildlife Conservation Act No. 5 of 2009 (such as graphite). As many as eight new applications have been lodged in 2016. Licenses adjacent to the property raise further concerns about the Larger Selous Ecosystem, in particular the Selous-Niassa Corridor.

It should be recalled that the Committee, at its 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions, expressed its utmost concern that the Stiegler's Gorge project, if approved, could cause serious and irreversible damage to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and that the 2013 mission recommended the State Party to, clarify unambiguously and in writing the current status of planning and decision-making regarding the project. However, such clarification has not yet been provided. The status of the Kidunda dam project also remains unclear, with a reported major change in its design from a water retention dam to a combined retention dam/hydropower project, which caused delays in the preparation of an ESIA.

It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request (Decision **37 COM 7B.7**) to the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in order to comprehensively identify the cumulative impacts of mining, the Stiegler's Gorge and Kidunda dams, agriculture and associated infrastructure, such as road building, both within the property as well as in important wildlife corridors and dispersal areas that are critical for maintaining the OUV of the property.

The scale of the threats facing the property requires significant additional efforts to be adequately addressed. As human pressure increases, an integrated vision and approach beyond the administrative boundaries of the property with opportunities for local communities to participate in decision-making and benefit-sharing, including in Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), become more urgent, yet little progress is reported in that regard.

As the State Party is reportedly making progress towards addressing the threat from poaching, the mining and proposed dam developments are considered to represent significant additional threats to its OUV. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate progress in combating poaching and to assess the current status and likely impacts of the proposed ISL at the Mkuju River Uranium Mine, the Stiegler's Gorge and Kidunda dam projects, and prospecting licenses overlapping with and adjacent to the property.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

**Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.47**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 8B.43**, **37 COM 7B.7**, **38 COM 7B.95**, and **39 COM 7A.14**, adopted at its 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party and its international partners for their efforts in addressing the poaching crisis and encourages all involved to consolidate and coordinate these efforts;
4. Acknowledges the progress made by the State Party to establish the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), noting that further studies are ongoing to address gaps in elephant population data and to enable the establishment of a proposed timeframe for its implementation;
5. Requests the State Party to undertake an analysis of the current situation of black rhinoceros to estimate the number of rhino left in the property, to inform the response required to secure this population, and to revise the DSOOCR accordingly, and also requests the State Party to submit, by **1 December 2017** an updated proposal for the DSOOCR, for adoption by the Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
6. Urges again the State Party to develop and implement a comprehensive Emergency Action Plan with the objective of halting poaching within the Larger Selous Ecosystem within 12 months, as originally recommended by the 2013 mission;
7. Welcomes the establishment of the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) and its inauguration in October 2015, and also urges the State Party to ensure its timely and effective operationalization, as well as adequate and reliable resourcing;
8. Also commends the States Parties of Tanzania, Mozambique and China for the formalization of agreements on the transboundary Niassa-Selous Ecosystem and on wildlife crime prevention, respectively, and strongly encourages all involved States Parties to report to the World Heritage Centre on the activities carried out in the framework of these agreements;
9. Reiterates its utmost concern about:
  - a) the ongoing lack of clarity in terms of the extraction method, water monitoring and disaster preparedness as regards the Mkuju River Project (MRP),
  - b) the ongoing Stiegler's Gorge dam project despite a high likelihood of serious and irreversible damage to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,
  - c) the lack of submission of a complete Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) on the Kidunda dam project, which seems to have been extended in its scope and therefore could have a higher impact on the integrity of the property,
  - d) the legal possibility of mineral exploration and exploitation in the property and the overlapping mining and prospecting licenses, despite the commitment made by the State Party to not engage in any mining activity within the property, in line

*with the established position of the Committee that mining and oil and gas exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status,*

- e) *the lack of reported progress in creating opportunities for local communities to participate in decision-making and benefit-sharing, including in Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs);*
- 10. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to comprehensively identify the cumulative impacts of mining, the potential Stiegler's Gorge and planned Kidunda dam projects, agriculture and associated infrastructure, such as road building, both within the property as well as in important wildlife corridors and dispersal areas that are critical for maintaining the OUV of the property, and further urges the State Party to abandon any plans for the different development projects which are incompatible with the World Heritage status of the property;*
- 11. *Also requests the State Party to invite an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, in order to evaluate progress in combating poaching, and to assess the current status and likely impacts of the proposed In Situ Leaching at the Mkuju River Uranium Mine, the Stiegler's Gorge and Kidunda dam projects, and prospecting licenses overlapping with and adjacent to the property, as well as any other development that might impact the OUV of the property;*
- 12. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, on the implementation of the above and on the 2013 mission recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;*
- 13. ***Decides to retain Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

## ASIA-PACIFIC

### 48. Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) (N 1167)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2011-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- Road construction
- Mining
- Illegal logging
- Encroachment

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger  
Adopted; see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5970>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted; see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5970>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5970>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1167/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2005-2012)

Total amount approved: USD 96,600

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1167/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,800,000 for the 3-year UNF/UNFIP Project (2005-2007) – Partnership for the Conservation of Sumatra Natural Heritage; USD 35,000 Rapid Response Facility grant (2007); USD 30,000 International Assistance for development of Emergency Action Plan (2012)

Previous monitoring missions

February-March 2006: UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2007: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2009: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2011: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2013: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/ management plan
- Road construction
- Agricultural encroachment
- Illegal logging
- Poaching
- Institutional and governance weaknesses

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1167/>

Current conservation issues

On 26 January 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1167/documents/>. Efforts towards achieving the Desired state of

conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) are presented as follows:

- Analysis of satellite imagery to monitor forest cover is scheduled for a period of five years;
- Population trend data are provided for tiger and elephant;
- The Ministry of Environment and Forestry and the Ministry of Public Works agree to avoid any new road developments within the property;
- No mining concessions or exploration permits exist within the property. All illegal traditional mining sites within Kerinci Seblat National Park (KSNP) have been closed, and 30,370 ha of the park have been rehabilitated;
- Efforts to maintain and reconstruct the borders of Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP) are undertaken in cooperation with local authorities and local communities;
- Efforts to improve law enforcement include joint patrols involving local communities, police and the army, elimination of illegal plantations, establishment of a communication forum for law enforcement and Protection Assistance for Wildlife Security (PAWS) training at Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBSNP). In 2015, 43 people were detained on suspicion of forest crimes committed at GLNP. A total of 105 ha of illegal agricultural activities in GLNP were eliminated. Five cases of illegal species trafficking were recorded from KSNP and BBSNP;
- Various activities are undertaken to manage the wider landscape of the property, including among others the designation of buffer zones.

Information on the issues raised by the Committee at its previous sessions is also provided, as follows:

- The geothermal development license adjacent to BBSNP is currently in its exploration phase, which will last until 2019. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be undertaken prior to any exploitation;
- Various preliminary studies have been undertaken to support the development of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) requested by the Committee in Decision **36 COM 7A.13**. The draft SEA is expected to be available for stakeholder consultation by end 2016;
- The State Party confirms its commitment that the Aceh Spatial Plan will not have any negative impact on the property and key areas in the Leuser Ecosystem;

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

The commitment to avoid road construction within the property is welcome, as are the confirmation that no mining permits overlapping the property exist and the reported closure of all illegal traditional mining sites in KSNP. The scheduled analysis of satellite imagery to monitor forest cover should enable the State Party to provide more detail on progress towards achieving the relevant indicator of the DSOCR in the next two years, as foreseen in the Emergency Action Plan (EAP). The State Party's intention to undertake an EIA for the geothermal development license adjacent to BBSNP is also welcome, and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure that this EIA includes a specific assessment of impacts on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to provide a copy to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, prior to making any decision to approve the development. Progress on the development of the SEA is noted, and it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to submit it to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2017, for review by IUCN.

On 21 April 2016, a press release from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) noted that an immediate moratorium on palm oil and mining in the Leuser Ecosystem was declared by MoEF and the Aceh provincial government on 19 April 2016, and that a review of all palm oil and mining licenses in the Leuser Ecosystem will be conducted, which will consider key wildlife habitats among other aspects. A temporary suspension of all land clearing operations by palm oil and mining companies in the Leuser Ecosystem will be put into effect while the review is ongoing. This information was further confirmed by the State Party in a letter to the World Heritage Centre dated 20 May 2016. It is recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for its commitment to secure the Leuser Ecosystem, and that it encourage the State Party to seek the advice of the World Heritage Centre and

IUCN to identify the areas in the Leuser Ecosystem that are crucially important to ensure the integrity of the property. In that regard, the designation of buffer zones should include key areas for wildlife in the Leuser Ecosystem and ecological corridors that connect these areas with the property to ensure that these are legally protected.

The data provided on wildlife populations does not enable an evaluation of progress achieved towards the targets defined in the DSOCR. While the tiger population trends reported may seem positive, they appear to be cumulative rather than yearly trends, in which case they actually indicate a decline of 9% in 2013, and stabilization since 2014. The elephant population appears to be stable in recent years, but suffered an 8% decline in 2013. Data for rhino and orangutan are not provided, and occupancy data for all four species remains lacking. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide detailed population data for Sumatran tiger, elephant, and rhino, as well as occupancy data for all three species and Sumatran orangutan, including clarification of methodologies used for their statistical analyses, in order to enable a correct and unambiguous interpretation of the results and an assessment of progress achieved towards the targets defined in the DSOCR.

The efforts undertaken to improve law enforcement are noted. However, the reported numbers of cases of forest crimes, illegal agricultural activities, and wildlife trafficking do not enable an assessment of the severity of these issues. Considering that the 2013 reactive monitoring mission reported that all patrols in the property are managed using the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) which enables data collection on illegal activities, and also considering that illegal logging, agricultural encroachment and poaching/wildlife trade could have significant impacts on the OUV of the property, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide comprehensive data about these illegal activities, including maps of where incidences were recorded, in order to enable a well-informed assessment of the significance of these threats.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

### **Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.48**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 39 COM 7A.15, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Commends the State Party for its commitment to secure the Leuser Ecosystem by putting in place a moratorium on palm oil and mining, as well as a temporary suspension of all land clearing operations by palm oil and mining companies in the Leuser Ecosystem while a review of their licenses is being conducted, which will consider key wildlife habitats among other aspects;*
4. *Considers that the designation of buffer zones should include key areas for wildlife in the Leuser Ecosystem as well as ecological corridors connecting these areas with the property to ensure these are legally protected, and encourages the State Party to seek the advice of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to identify the areas in the Leuser Ecosystem that are crucially important to ensure the integrity of the property;*
5. *Welcomes the State Party's commitment to avoid any new road developments in the property and the confirmation that no mining licenses overlap with the property, and that illegal traditional mining sites in Kerinci Seblat National Park have been closed and are in the process of being rehabilitated;*
6. *Urges the State Party to ensure that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the geothermal development license adjacent to Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park includes a specific assessment of impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)*

of the property, in accordance with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to submit a copy of the EIA to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, prior to making a decision to approve the development;

7. Requests the State Party to provide detailed population data of Sumatran tiger, elephant and rhino, as well as occupancy data for all three species and Sumatran orangutan, including clarification of methodologies used for their statistical analyses, in order to enable an assessment of progress achieved towards the targets defined in the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
8. Also requests the State Party to provide details on the data collected through the application of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) in order to enable an assessment of the significance of forest crimes, illegal agricultural activities, and poaching/wildlife trade, and their impacts on the OUV of the property;
9. Noting that the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the road network in the Bukit Barisan Mountain Range is expected to be available for public consultation by end 2016, reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the SEA, by **1 February 2017**, to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;
11. Decides to retain the **Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

#### **49. East Rennell (Solomon Islands) (N 854)**

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add.2